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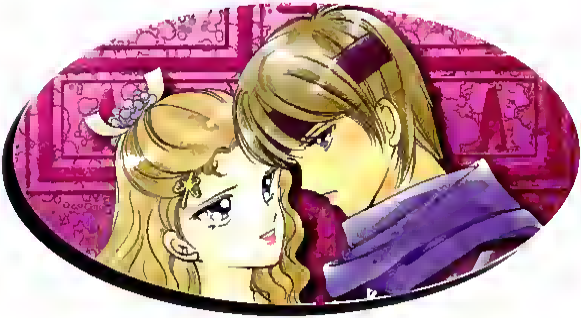

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●九州に行ってきました。

大分とか佐賀とか小倉とか。佐賀城で大名行列祭り推進同好会(長っ)の会長さんにお会いして、鍋島藩がすばらしいってお話をきかせていただきました。いやいや鍋島藩はなかなかあなどりがたいと赤石も思ってました。宣伝してねー、とおっしゃってましたんで宣伝しましたよー。いやわたしが漫画家と知らずに、おっしゃってたんですけどね。

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Cell phone
USABLE ONLY WHEN THE SKY TURNS RED.
Hosokawa Mitsutoshi
THE YOUNG MASTER OF HIGO KUMAMOTO *HAN
*note: Han is a general term (used in Edo period) to name the organization structured by the Japanese feudal lord in his dominated territory.
Horie Eiji
NATSUKI'S CLASSMATE WHO HAS PROFOUND KNOWLEDGE ABOUT MACHINERY. UNLIKE NATSUKI, HORIE WAS TRANSPORTED TO AN EARLIER ERA OF NAGASAKI
Kichou (Okiku)
THE FAVORITE CONCUBINE OF THE LORD OF SHIMABARA WHO HAPPENS TO LIKE EIJI
Yatsuka Naozumi
ONE OF NATSUKI'S CLASSMATES WHO HAS BECOME THE CHAMBERLAIN FOR THE LORD OF TOMIOKAJOU. HE, TOO, WAS TRANSPORTED TO AN EARLIER ERA OF NAGASAKI.
Kasugano Eri
NATSUKI'S CLASSMATE WHO IS THE TOP NATIONAL STUDENT IN JAPAN
Miyamoto Masaki (Miyamoto Musashi)
NATSUKI'S CLASSMATE WHO'S ALSO A MASTER SWORDMAN. HE WAS TRANSPORTED TO AN EARLIER ERA OF NAGASAKI AND IS BEING ADDRESSED AS MUSASHI
Ginji
SHIROU'S FRIEND WHO THINKS THAT NATSUKI IS SHIROU. HE'S SKILLED IN USING A PISTOL
Akishima Seika
NATSUKI'S CLASSMATE WHO IS PROFICIENT IN FOREIGN LANGUAGES. SHE WAS PICKED UP BY A VESSEL FROM HOLLAND
Hayami Natsuki (Amakusa Shirou)
A HIGH-SCHOOL STUDENT WHO TIME-SLIPPED FROM YEAR 2000. A MASTER SWORDWOMAN. SHE'S BECOME A SUBSTITUTE FOR THE LATE MASUDA SHIROU (AMAKUSA SHIROU) DUE TO THE REMARKABLE RESEMBLANCES BETWEEN HER AND THE DECEASED ONE

PREVIOUSLY

NATSUKI AND THE FELLOW MEMBERS OF THE STUDENT COUNCIL WERE ON A STUDY TRIP WHEN THEY GOT SHIPWRECKED. THE STUDENTS WERE ALL TRANSPORTED TO THE EDGES OF AMAKUSA. BEFORE THE HISTORICAL RIOT TOOK PLACE, HOWEVER, EVERYONE ARRIVED IN A DIFFERENT PERIOD OF TIME. NATSUKI IS LIVING AS THE DECEASED "AMAKUSA SHIROU" AND WITH THE ADDED SUPPORT FROM YATSUKA, WHO IS ANTI-CHRISTIAN, SHE IS PERFORMING VARIOUS MIRACLES IN ORDER TO SAVE THE SUFFERING VILLAGERS. MIYAMOTO FINALLY REGAINS HIS MEMORY, WHILE NATSUKI IS CONTEMPLATING A REVOLT AGAINST THE SHOGUNATE ARMY.

AMAKUSA 1637 人物紹介

AMAKUSA1637
MICHIYO AKAMI PRESENTS
CHAPTER 13
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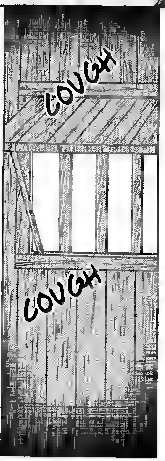
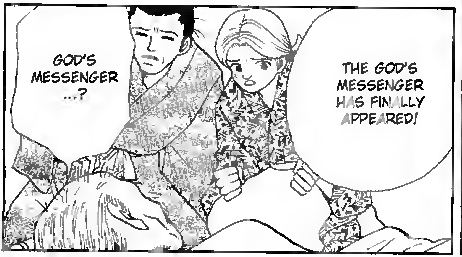
WIND SCREECHES

I THINK... THIS IS IT FOR ME...
I WILL BE GOING TO THE LORD'S SIDE SOON...
WHAT ARE YOU BABBLING ABOUT, FATHER?


COUGH
COUGH


THE GOD'S MESSENGER HAS FINALLY APPEARED!
GOD'S MESSENGER ...?

IS THAT TRUE...? IF SO.. THEN HE'S REALLY HERE TO HELP US
MAYBE THERE'S STILL SOME HOPE LEFT FOR ME...
"JUST ONE LOOK AND YOU WILL BE ABLE TO RECOGNIZE GOD'S MESSENGER FROM HIS BEAUTY!" THAT'S WHAT EVERYONE SAID
WE SHOULD BE MEETING HIM SOON
BUT MOMMY, IF WE EAT YOUR FOOD, YOU'D HAVE NONE LEFT...
IT'S ALL RIGHT, MY CHILDREN
BEAR WITH IT, MY CHILD. LOOK, YOU CAN HAVE MOMMY'S SHARE, TOO
MOMMY! I'M HUNGRY!
THAT PERSON SHALL SOON ARRIVE.
HE'LL BE HERE SOON.
WHO'S COMING?
GOD'S MESSENGER

HE JUMPED INTO THE FIRE TO RESCUE THE PEOPLE!
HE CALLS UPON A DRAGON AND WALKS ON WATER!
GOD HAD ALSO APPEARED BEHIND HIM AND THEN SENT THE PURSUING OFFICERS BACK!
JUST BE PATIENT...
THAT PERSON SHALL SURELY COME TO OUR AID
GOD'S MESSENGER
...SHIROU -SAMA
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BEEP
AMAKUSA TOMIOKAJOU
I CAN'T SEEM TO GET A SIGNAL
This is the actual Amakusa of the Edo era
Why do we have our cell phones with us?
..It's because I, Hayumi Natsuki, am a high-school student from the year 2000

The cell phone works only when the sky turns red.
I TRIED TO CALL ERI, BUT...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, NATSUKI?
IT'S DINNERTIME!
Seika is actually supposed to be leaving for Germany to study music.
AH! I CAN'T GET A SIGNAL!
This is my friend, Akishima Seika
HE'S IN THE GARDEN
HEY, WHERE'S MIYAMOTO?
That's Ginji.
SHIROU, JOIN US FOR A DRINK!
This is my friend, Yatsuka Naozumi.
He was transported here earlier than me, roughly about 8 years ago and is a Chamberlain now

Also known as Amakusa Shirou
Masuda Shirou.
LATER
It appears that I bear a resemblance to Masuda Shirou.
NO, I'LL PASS. I'm underage anyway
THE SAKE IS TOO GOOD TO PASS UP ON, SHIROU!
The Shirou who is from this world seems to have passed on.
Before I even knew it, everyone was calling me 'Shirou'.
My friend, Miyamoto Masaki.
And that's—

GLITTER!
He has another name here. Miyamoto Musashi.
What's Miyamoto doing?
MUSASHI -SAMA...
Otsuu

My comrades at Kokura Han...
MIYAMOTO -SAMA!
Foster father...
YOU'RE THE ONLY WHO I CAN COUNT ON, MUSASHI -DONO
I..
MIYAMOTO?
NATSUKI.

DROPS
OH...
YATSUKA HAS COOKED FOOD FOR US AGAIN. COME ON, LET'S GO! WHAT ARE YOU DOING, ANYWAY? LET'S TAKE A BREAK!
SORRY
A hairpin? It's Otsuu-san's
YOU MUST BE QUITE TROUBLED NOW THAT YOU'VE REGAINED YOUR MEMORY.
AFTER ALL, YOU HAVE A LIFE HERE.

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BUT I CAN'T SEE THEM ANYMORE IT'D BE MISERABLE IF I WERE TO MEET THEM.
MIYAMOTO
THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE WAITING FOR ME IN KOKURA
TELL THEM THAT I'M DEAD
AND I ALSO NEED YOUR SUPPORT
I DON'T WANT YOU TO BE MY ENEMY,
I...
BUT, STILL. .

...YOUR ACTIONS WILL CAUSE A LOT OF SUFFERING
DON'T WORRY
YOU DON'T HAVE TO THINK ABOUT THAT.
BUT PLEASE, DON'T DO SOMETHING YOU'D REGRET.
DON'T MIND ME.
BUT...
MIYAMOTO...
NATSUKI.

IT'S NONE OF OUR BUSINESS. LET'S LEAVE THEM ALONE.

SHIROU IS ERI-DONO'S FIANCÉ, ISN'T HE? WHAT IS HE DOING WITH MUSASHI -DONO?
WHAT..?
OH

HMM... BUT...
WHAT..?!

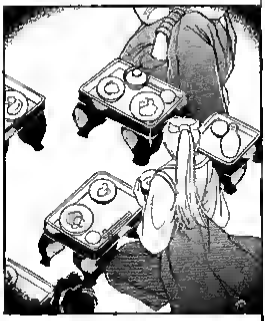
WELL... WHAT ABOUT ERI-DONO ?
Ah! That's so annoying
JUST AS EXPECTED OF NATSUKI, SHE WOULDN'T DARE CLING TO MIYAMOTO.

Lately these days Shirou would appear masculine, yet other times he would be more feminine
He has the allure to attract all those who set eyes on him.
It's as though he's not from this world...

GINJI, WHAT ARE YOU DOING? IT'S TIME TO RETURN
ERI?
YES, WE'RE FINE. YES
SHE SAID TO MEET HER AT *DANGOUJO AT 12 NOON
ERI'S SAID THAT SHE'LL BE MEETING US TOMORROW.
*note: The official name for this island is Yushima it's situated between Amakusa and Shimabara Peninsula at Ariake Sea.
IT'S BETWEEN SHIMABARA AND AMAKUSA AND IS ALSO KNOWN AS YUSHIMA
WHERE IS THIS DANGOUJO? DOES SUCH A PLACE EVEN EXIST?

He definitely isn't the same Shirou I knew in the past.

NOON,
AT DANGOUJO
DURING THE RIOT, THE ISLAND WAS USED TO HOLD MEETINGS, HENCE THE NAME 'DANGOUJO'. BUT IT'S YET TO BE ACCEPTED AS A PLACE
THOSE OF YOU WHO WISH TO PARTICIPATE IN THE BATTLE, PLEASE COME FOR THE MEETING.
LET'S CONFIRM FIRST.
Miyamoto, please come for the meeting.
...



There is a huge gap between me and them.

Just as expected...

These are no ordinary people.

A murderous aura... Where is it coming from..?
SHATTER
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DON'T DRINK THAT, NATSUKI!
RING!
ABOVE US?!

STRIKE
INTRUDER!
RELENTLESS
THUD

No way — He's from Edo —
HE'S FAST! HE'S AN ASSASSIN!
WHEN YOU SAY 'ASSASSIN'.. DO YOU MEAN A NINJA?!
Wow! He's the real McCoy
SHOT
HE'S QUITE FAST! WE CAN'T CATCH UP!
I must kill that man or else more will come back to assassinate Natsuki!
THAT'S BAD!

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GINJI!
HE DIED FROM A SINGLE SHOT IN THE CHEST.
YOU'RE AMAZING! YOU CAN ACTUALLY SHOOT FROM SUCH A LONG DISTANCE!
IT'S NOT A BIG DEAL...
HEY GINJI, YOU'VE TAKEN DOWN A SOLDIER WITH JUST A SINGLE SHOT BEFORE, HAVEN'T YOU?
YOU'RE ACTUALLY QUITE SKILLFUL, HUH?
DO YOU WANT TO TRY SHOOTING WITH A MATCHLOCK GUN IN THE CASTLE?
HUH...?

WHO TAUGHT YOU HOW TO SHOOT?
NO ONE I PRACTICE SHOOTING MYSELF
HERE, TRY THIS
SURE
BANG
SO WHAT HAPPENED EARLIER WASN'T JUST SHEER LUCK
SHH...
INCRED-IBLE...
HOW ABOUT WITH THIS?
BANG
BANG

BANG
GINJI
THE FIRST SHOT MISSED TARGET...
IT'S BECAUSE EACH GUN IS DIFFERENT THAN THE OTHER. AFTER FIRING THE FIRST SHOT, I CAN ROUGHLY KNOW NOW TO HANDLE THE GUN
I ALSO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE DIRECTION OF THE WIND AND THE WEATHER
INCREDIBLE, GINJI! YOU CAN BE OUR SNIPER!
SNIPER? WHAT'S THAT?
IT'S LIKE A SHOOTER, GINJI! YOU ARE OUR SHARP-SHOOTER!
YOU ARE A GENIUS!

*note: Tokugawa Iemitsu (1604-1651) was an Edo Shogun who instituted drastic measures towards Christians and Catholic proselytizers and converts. He also introduced the Isolation Act (Sakoku) in 1635 which forbade any Japanese ship or person to leave the country and foreigners to enter Japan. All offenders were punished with death

I WONDER ...
WAS THE NINJA REALLY AFTER NATSUKI?
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHETHER HE WAS AFTER NATSUKI...
...IT'S JUST TOO SOON FOR THAT. SUCH AN ACT COULD BE THE DOING OF A SHOGUN.
COULD IT BE *IEMITSU ...?
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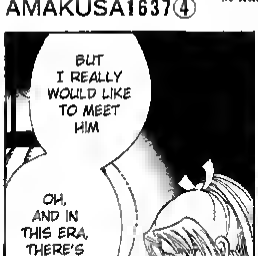
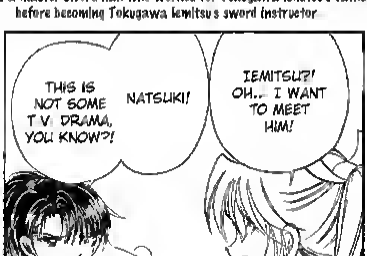
*note Yagyuu Juubei Mitsuyoshi (1607-1650) was a samurai in Japan's feudal era who was one of the most famous and romanticized warrior. He was a master swordman who worked for Tokugawa Iemitsu's father before becoming Tokugawa Iemitsu's sword instructor.





I FEEL THAT WHILE WE ARE HERE, I'D DEFINITELY GET TO MEET YAGYUU JUUBEI MITSUYOSHI.
I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO IT.
OH — OKAY!
I don't understand either
OH WELL, TIME TO SLEEP.
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW SCARY THAT SHOGUN IS!
HE'S RATHER DIFFERENT FROM THE PRIME MINISTER
OH WELL IT'S COMFORTING TO HAVE THE WORLD FAMOUS MIYAMOTO MUSASHI WITH US, THOUGH
THAT IDIOT WHO JUST ARRIVED FROM THE YEAR 2000 DOESN'T KNOW ANYTHING, LET ALONE UNDERSTAND THE POWERFUL 'SHOGUN' WHO IS DOMINATING THE WHOLE COUNTRY

?
WHAT?
...
LET'S DRINK.
ARE YOU TROUBLED OR SOMETHING?
HUMPH!
I DON'T KNOW HOW FAR MY FOLLOWERS WOULD SERVE ME
AS A CHAMBERLAIN, YOU HAVE QUITE A HANDFUL OF TAXING PROBLEMS TOO, DON'T YOU?
BUT I DO WHAT I HAVE TO DO IN ORDER TO SURVIVE

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TO BE HONEST, THERE ARE PEOPLE WHOM I WOULDN'T LIKE AS ENEMIES
ARE YOU UNABLE TO GIVE UP ON KOKURA?
STRANGE AS IT MAY SEEM, I, TOO...
HAVE SOMEONE WHOM I LOVED
...
NO WAY ARE YOU GOING TO SAY THAT YOU'RE RETURNING TO KOKURA.
IF YOU WERE TO DO THAT, THEN YOU CAN'T RETURN HERE ANYMORE.

BUT...
I KILLED HIM IN ORDER TO SAVE MYSELF...

I WAS SO CRAZY FOR THAT PERSON THAT I EVEN GAVE ALLOWANCES TO THE PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS
BIZZARE, ISN'T IT?

YATSUKA?

I WAKE UP IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT...
...DREAMING OF HIM HELD IN MY ARMS...
EVERY TIME...

I KNOW TOO WELL THAT HE'S NO LONGER HERE.
IT WAS TOO LATE WHEN I FINALLY REALIZED THAT HE WAS GONE.
SLIP
IS SHE IN KOKURA?
OR IS SHE HERE?
THE ONE THAT YOU LOVE.
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THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN YOUR LIFE IS THE PERSON WHOM YOU LOVE.

YEAH...

KOKURA

I WANT TO FIX THIS SLEEVE.
ARE YOU STILL AWAKE, OTSUU?

I have an uneasy feeling.
I want to see you...
Musashi-sama...
OUCH!
I want you to..
"I'll hold you in my arms so that you'd have nothing to fear..."
Musashi-sama...

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NATSUKI—
THAT'S DANGOLIJO
EIJI—
ERI!
OH...
WHAT'S WITH THAT? HE SURE LIKES TO SURPRISE US
WHY...?

Miyamoto!
WHY DID YOU COME HERE ALONE BEFORE US?!
Everyone is together again.
At last...

DOES IT STILL WORK? IT'S BEEN 8 YEARS...

I HAD MADE SOME BATTERIES FOR OUR CELL PHONES. HERE, TAKE IT!
WOW! YOU'RE AMAZING, EIJI!

SORRY, BUT I DON'T HAVE MY CELL PHONE WITH ME!
AH! IT WORKS! IT'S WORKS!
JUST HOLD ON TO IT, MIYAMOTO -KUN.
YOU'RE A GENIUS, EIJI!
ALL RIGHT ..!
LET'S START WORKING ON OUR STRATE-GIES,
SO THAT EVERYONE WILL LIVE IN HAPPINESS!
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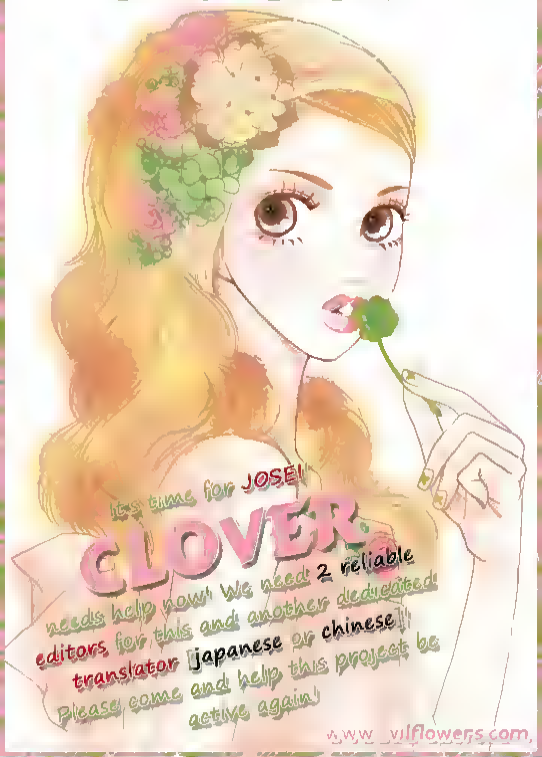
SPOTLIGHT


it's time for JOSE!
CLOVER
needs help now! we need 2 reliable
editors for this and another dedicated
translator (japanese or chinese)!!
Please come and help this project be
active again!
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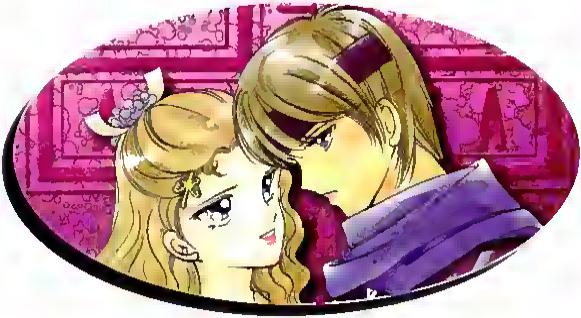

Credits

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QC-er: angelintheice

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MIZUHO AKAISHI PRESENTS
CHAPTER 14

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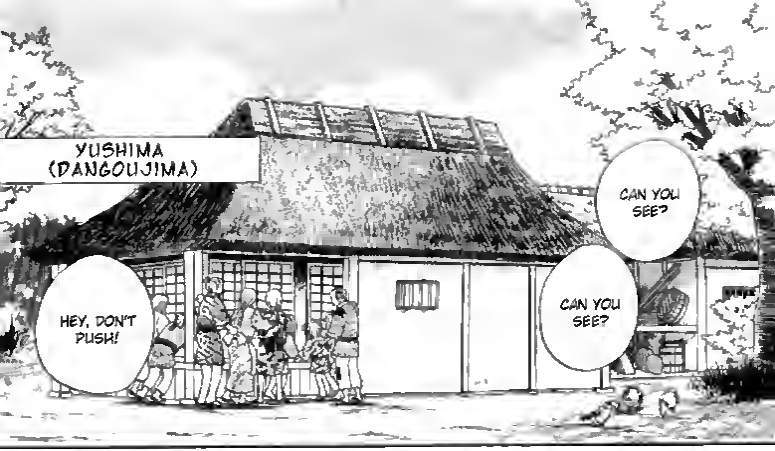
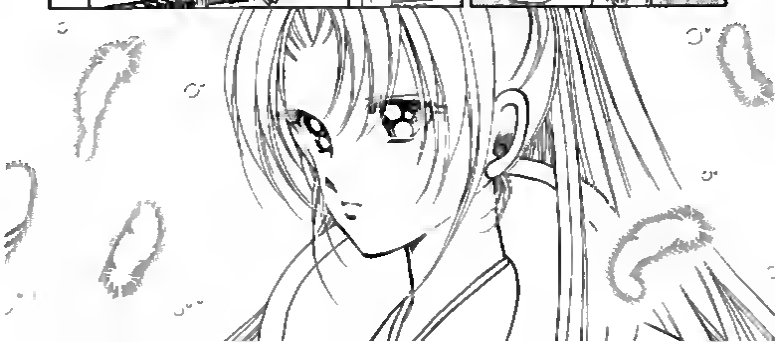
LET'S WIN OVER THE ENTIRE KYUSHU.

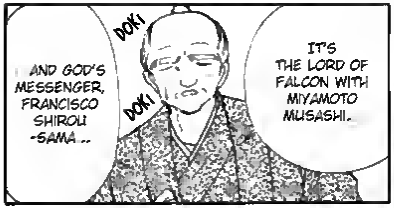

YUSHIMA
(DANGOUJIMA)
HEY, DON'T PUSH!
CAN YOU SEE?
CAN YOU SEE?

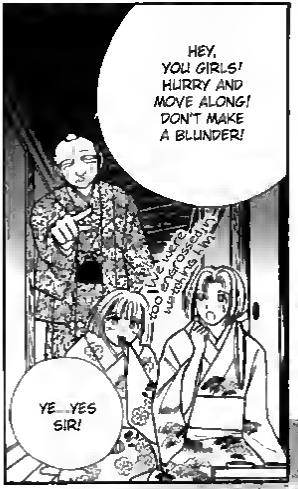
WHY, HE'S A BEAUTIFUL GOD'S MESSENGER, ISN'T HE?

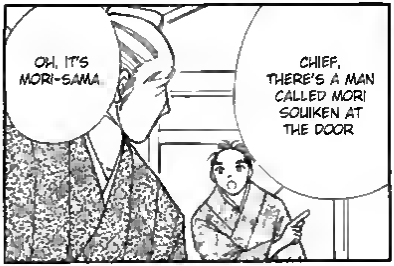
IT'S THAT PERSON
ONE LOOK AND YOU CAN REALLY TELL..



*note. Konishi Yukinaga (1555-1600) was a Christian feudal lord who had also fought in the Battle of Sekigahara against Tokugawa Ieyasu. Ieyasu's grandfather Konishi was later caught and beheaded because he refused to commit suicide on the grounds of his religion.

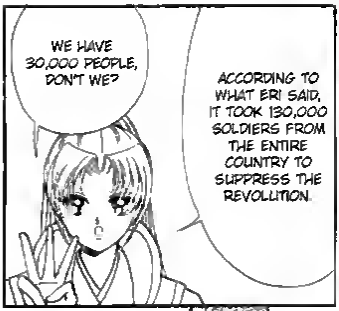






MORI SOUIKEN
(VASSAL TO THE LATE *KONISHI YUKINAGA)

AND I'M SURE YOU KNOW YATSUKA?
THIS IS MIYAMOTO MUSASHI
OHH... AND WHO DO WE HAVE HERE...?
BUT TO HAVE THE CHAMBERLAIN OF TOMIOKA, YATSUKA-SAMA, WITH US HERE...?
I WOULDN'T HAVE THOUGHT THAT I COULD MEET YOU MIYAMOTO MUSASHI-DONO
HE WON'T BE KILLING CHRISTIANS ANYMORE.
AH, DON'T WORRY! BECAUSE YATSUKA'S OUR FRIEND!
FRI... FRIENDS?
IT'S A PLE...SURE TO MEET YOU.


WE HAVE 30,000 PEOPLE, DON'T WE?
ACCORDING TO WHAT ERI SAID, IT TOOK 130,000 SOLDIERS FROM THE ENTIRE COUNTRY TO SUPPRESS THE REVOLUTION.

*note. Chikuzen, Chikugo, Buzen, Bungo, Higo, Hizen, Hyuga, Oosumi, and Satsuma were the nine provinces on ancient Kyushu and they were the reason how Kyushu (literary means nine provinces) got its name.

*note: Goku is a measurement unit formulated by Toyotomi Hideyoshi to express the amount of rice and salaries to be paid to the officials and feudal lords in his court.

THE HOUSE OF HOSOKAWA IN HIGO – 54,000 GOKU...
THE HOUSE OF SHIMAZU IN SATSUMA – 77,000 *GOKU...
THE HOUSE OF NABESHIMA IN HIZEN – 35,000 GOKU...
THE HOUSE OF KURODA IN CHIKUZEN – 47,000 GOKU...
I SEE... SO ALL THE MORE REASON WE SHOULD HAVE THEM TEAM UP.
FURTHERMORE DURING THE RIOT, THE SHOGUNATE WAS MOST WORRIED THAT THE HOSOKAWA *HAN AND KURODA HAN WOULD COMBINE FORCES.
THERE ARE STILL MANY OTHERS, BUT THESE ARE THE FOUR MAJOR ONES

*note: Han is a general term (used in Edo period) to name the organization structured by the Japanese feudal lord in his dominated territory

*note. Kanmon Kaikyo is the strait that separates the mainland and Kyushu. A strategic point for land and sea traffic.

WHICH HAN IS HERE?
THAT'S RIGHT BECAUSE NO ONE CAN EVEN ENTER KYUSHU IF THEY CAN'T PASS THROUGH HERE.
*KANMON KAIKYO
NEXT, THE MOST IMPORTANT POINT IS STILL THIS...
豊前 BUZEN
ALRIGHT! LET'S GO AND MEET THEM.
HOSOKAWA AND KURODA, FOLLOWED BY KOKURA.
SO IT'S KYUSHU'S MOST IMPORTANT AREA...
IT'S THE KOKURA HAN,
WITH ONLY A MERE STRENGTH OF 15,000 GOKU.
BUT IT HAS BEEN KNOWN AS 'THE VITAL POINT OF KYUSHU'
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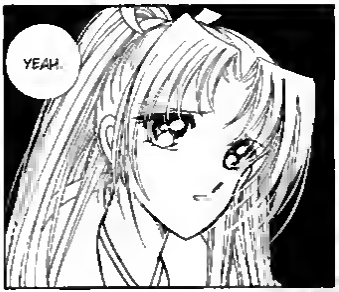
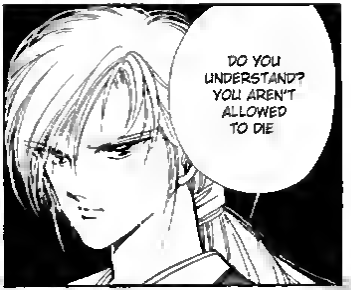
AH…
WELL——
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
WHAT A THING TO SAY, SHIROU-DONO!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? DO YOU INTEND TO SEE THEM?! AND DO YOU ALSO PLAN ON TELLING THEM THAT YOU'RE 'GOD'S MESSENGER'?!
YOU'D ONLY BE SEIZED IMMEDIATELY FOR BEING A CHRISTIAN!
HERE, LOOK AT THIS——
THIS… THIS IS… THE CREST OF HOSOKAWA!

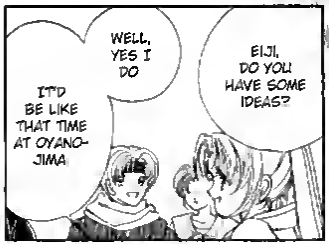
I GOT THIS FROM HOSOKAWA MITSUTOSHI
WHEN I RID OF THIS WOLF CUB'S PARENTS
THE CASTELLAN HOSOKAWA TADATOSHI-SAMA'S ELDEST SON, MITSUTOSHI -SAMA. ?
ANYWAY, LET'S GO AND MEET MITSUTOSHI
YE YES.
HEY, NOW DO YOU FEEL LIKE IT'S NO LONGER IMPOSSIBLE?
Miyamoto Musashi, Chamberlain of Tomioka...
and Hosokawa Mitsutoshi...
I TOLD HIM THAT I WOULDN'T BECOME HIS VASSAL, BUT INSTEAD WE BECOME FRIENDS.

really God's messenger.
Perhaps this man is.
I MEAN EVERYONE HERE.
DURING THE PERIOD WHEN I'LL BE MEETING HOSOKAWA, KOKURA, CAN EVERYONE WAIT FOR ME AND NOT START THE RIOT?
HOWEVER, I HAVE A CONCERN
IT WAS DANGEROUS LAST TIME!
BUT THE SITUATION'S ON THE VERGE OF BREAKING OUT NOW

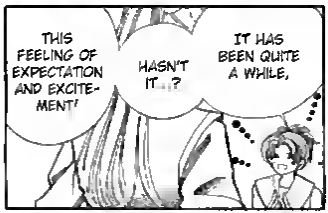
GRANTED THAT YATSUKA RESTRAINED THE PERIPHERY OF TOMIOKA.
BUT AS THE CHAMBERLAIN, YOU CAN'T REALLY GO OUT, CAN YOU?
RATHER THAN DEPENDING ON MY STRENGTH, IT'D BE BETTER IF YOU COULD GIVE 'HOPE' TO THE PEOPLE INSTEAD.
HOPE?
IN OTHER WORDS, SAY THAT YOU'RE THE SAVIOR FOR THE PEOPLE. YOU'LL DEFINITELY HELP THEM.
THE PEOPLE HAVE TO BELIEVE THAT YOU'LL RETURN AGAIN, EVEN IF YOU'RE IN HOSOKAWA OR IN KOKURA.

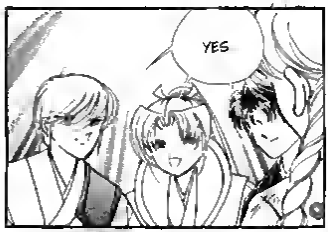

YEAH.


DO YOU UNDERSTAND? YOU AREN'T ALLOWED TO DIE


WELL, YES I DO
EIJI, DO YOU HAVE SOME IDEAS?
IT'D BE LIKE THAT TIME AT OYANO-JIMA

HMM THE PEOPLE'S SAVOR?
SHALL WE PUT ON A SHOWY PERFORMANCE THEN?
SOMETHING DRAMATIC


THIS FEELING OF EXPECTATION AND EXCITE-MENT!
HASN'T IT...?
IT HAS BEEN QUITE A WHILE,


YES

AH, GINJI, I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK.
OH — I SEE! WE'RE LOOKING TO SEE IF THERE'S ANYTHING THAT CAN BE USED.
THERE MAY BE MORE COMING, LET'S GO!
THERE WERE SOME THINGS THAT WAS LEFT OVER FROM THE LAST TIME, SUCH AS TORCHLIGHT AND WINE
HUH —? I CAN'T GO WITH YOU?
PLEASE TEACH EVERYONE HOW TO USE A PISTOL.
WHAT IS IT KASUGANO -DONO?
MORI-SAMA, THERE'S SOMETHING THAT I WOULD LIKE TO ASK.

WELL THAT PERSON
IS THERE ANY MERIT IN MEETING THAT MAN IN BUNGO?
豊前 Buzen
豊後 Bungo
...THAT MAN ISN'T SOMEONE WE CAN MEET EASILY EVEN IF WE WANTED TO.
AND IT SEEMS THAT HE'S HEAVILY GUARDED.
IN ANY CASE, THERE ARE A LOT OF TALES CONCERNING HIM IN OUR WORLD,
SUCH AS HIS VIOLENT CONDUCT THAT RESULTED IN PEOPLE BEING KILLED,
HIS PLOT TO OVERTHROW THE SHOGUNATE, AND SO ON
ON THE OTHER HAND, IT WAS ALSO RUMORED THAT HE WAS A GOOD LORD,
AND THAT HE WAS CHRISTIAN, AND SO FORTH.

ALTHOUGH HE'S THE COUSIN OF SHOGUNATE IEMITSU, HE'S LIVING IN EXILE IN BUNGO. IT'S SUCH A DISSERVICE.
I HAD MET HIM DURING HIS TRIP TO BUNGO WHERE HE WAS BEING DEPORTED...
CHRIS... CHRISTIAN? THAT MAN? BUT IF THAT'S THE CASE, EVERYTHING WOULD SEEM COHERENT.
THAT MAN —
I'D RATHER THINK SO...
BUT... IS HIS SO-CALLED VIOLENT CONDUCT A CONSPIRACY?
HE WAS ADMIRING THE FLOWERS BY THE ROADSIDE. I WAS RATHER SURPRISED THAT HE SEEMED LIKE A KIND PERSON.
FLOWERS
THAT MAN NAMED MATSUDAIRA TADANAO...
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I UNDERSTAND NOW. LET ME THINK THIS THROUGH. PERHAPS IT'D BE WORTHWHILE TO SEE HIM IF HE'S OF ANY HELP TO US.
KASUGANO-DONO.. YOU HAVE THE APPEARANCE OF A YOUNG GIRL, BUT YOU MAY BE THE MOST KNOWLEDGEABLE PERSON I'VE MET.
HUH? THERE'S NO SUCH THING IN MY WORLD. IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU'RE A MAN OR WOMAN.
WELL... ACTUALLY, THE POSITION OF OUR PRIME MINISTER — URHM, IT'S LIKE THE ROLE OF A SHOGUNATE — HAS YET TO BE TAKEN BY A WOMAN
BUT WE HAVE WOMEN GOVERNORS FOR PREFECTURES WHO ARE AKIN TO YOUR FEUDAL LORDS

Is that so..
THAT'S... BUT HAVING A WOMAN AS ONE'S LORD IS STILL —
BUT IN THE PAST, THERE WERE QUEENS.
A WOMAN AS A FEUDAL LORD? UNBELIEVABLE
We must be careful...
So if they were to know that Natsuki's a girl, these people may resent her
OOYANOJIMA
LOOK, WE COLLECTED THESE
FRANCISCO -SAMA, HERE, HERE, COME HERE!
FRANCISCO -SAMA!

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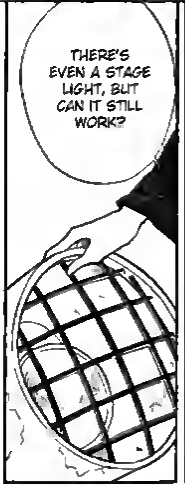
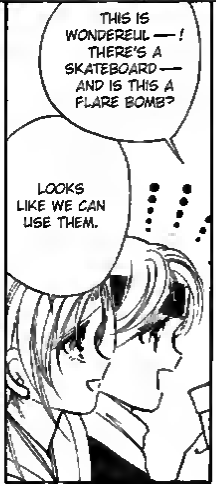




I'M SO GLAD THAT YOU'RE HERE, EIJI~
CAN YOU GIVE US SOME TIME, NATSUKI? IT SEEMS THAT THERE ARE A LOT OF THINGS THAT CAN BE ASSEMBLED.
AH, WELL, I SHOULD BE ABLE TO GET SOME
DO YOU HAVE THESE?
AMAKUSA GOSHOURA
DID YOU HEAR IT?
OF COURSE!
LEAVE IT TO ME
I HEARD IT! I HEARD IT FROM THE PEOPLE IN HONDO.
IS EVERYONE GOING?
AMAKUSA HONDO
IT'S SAID THAT GOD'S MESSENGER WILL SHOW UP AT THE SEASIDE OF OOYANOJIMA.
IS THAT FOR REAL, OR IS IT JUST A RUMOR?
AMAKUSA USHIBUKA

I WON'T BELIEVE IT UNTIL I SEE IT WITH MY OWN EYES.
THE MESSAGE CAME FROM AMAKUSA.
SHIMABARA

AND MEET GOD'S MESSENGER.

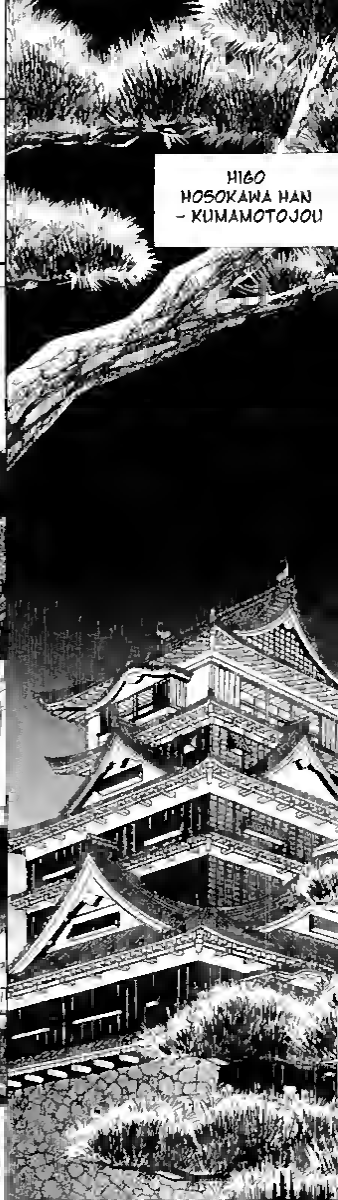
ARE YOU GOING?
SHALL WE GO,

WHAT?
HMM?

IS THERE SOME SPECIAL FISHING GOING ON?
THERE SURE ARE LOTS OF L. MPS LIGHTED ON THE SEA TONIGHT...

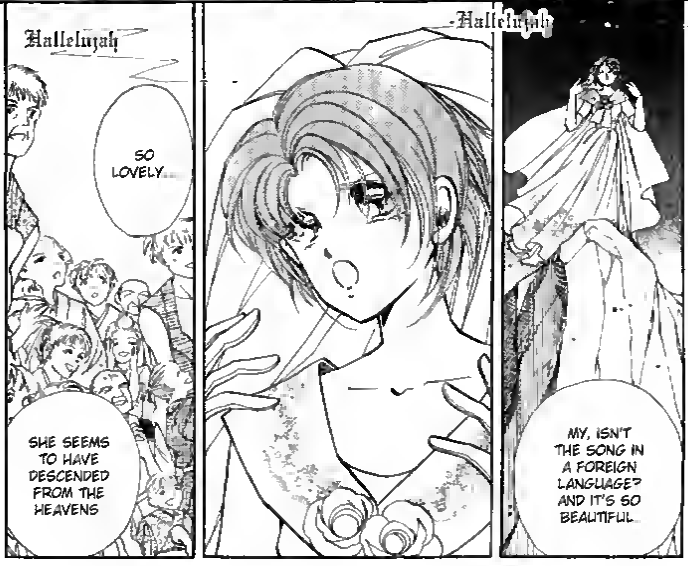
YOU'RE RIGHT. WHAT'S GOING ON?

SWOOSH


HIGO
HOSOKAWA HAN
- KUMAMOTOJOU

SHINK
SHINK
SPLASH
SPLASH
I'M FINE.
KICHOU-SAMA, ARE YOU COLD?
CHATTER
CHATTER
DON'T PUSH!
AH...
DO YOU HEAR SOMETHING?
HEY! SIT DOWN!

Note: A piece of music that may be sung solo or in a group with an orchestra and is a musical drama based on a religious theme.


Hallelujah
SO LOVELY...
SHE SEEMS TO HAVE DESCENDED FROM THE HEAVENS
Hallelujah
MY, ISN'T THE SONG IN A FOREIGN LANGUAGE? AND IT'S SO BEAUTIFUL...

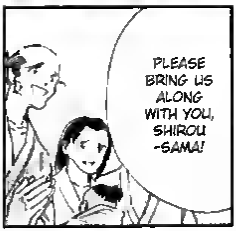
YES, IT APPEARS THAT HER SINGING CAN EVEN CHANGE HISTORY.
SEIKA'S AMAZING!
RIGHT.
IT'S ABOUT TIME FOR THE SMOKE.
THE SMOKE.
SFX: FLASHES
AH! LOOK AT THAT!
WHERE IS GOD'S MESSENGER?
CHATTER
CHATTER
SHIROU -SAMA

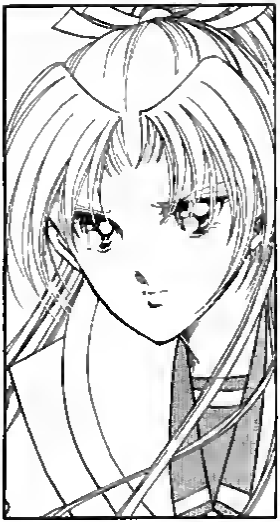
SFX PANG
IT'S A SHOOTING STAR!

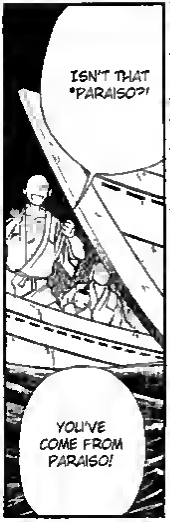
HAS SHIROU-SAMA APPEARED?
COULD IT BE.... HE'S COMING...?
IT'S JUST FIREWORKS...
...CONVERTED FROM THE FLARE BOMB.
PULLS DOWN
AH...!
THAT... THAT IS...
SHINES
THERE! OVER THERE!

HE'S STANDING ON THE WATER!

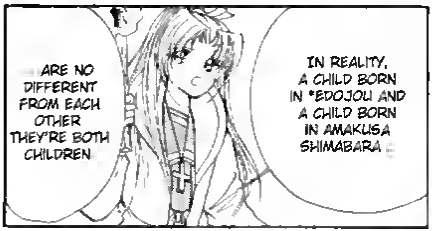
RUSTLING
I USED THE SKATEBOARD AND PLASTIC BOTTLES, WHICH I PAINTED BLACK
WHAT DID YOU USE?
WAH — IT LOOKS AS IF SHE'S STANDING ON THE WATER —
FANS
FANS
CHATTER
JUST AS WE THOUGHT ...
CHATTER
I'VE COME FROM A FOREIGN PLACE.
LIGHTS
BURNS

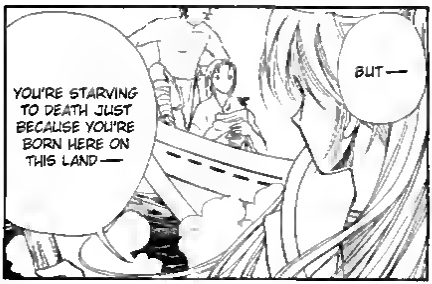






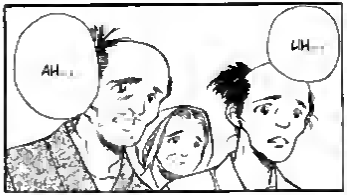
*note. Paraiso is the terminology for heaven/paradise used by Christians.

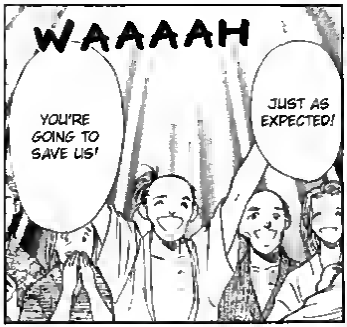

IN REALITY, A CHILD BORN IN *EDOJOU AND A CHILD BORN IN AMAKUSA SHIMABARA
ARE NO DIFFERENT FROM EACH OTHER THEY'RE BOTH CHILDREN



*note. Edojou is the castle where the Edo Shogunate - Tokugawa and his descendants - had lived for five generations from 1590-1868.

WHY IS IT THAT IT'S ONLY US WHO ARE BEING TREATED THIS WAY...?
THAT'S RIGHT...
YOU'RE FORCED TO DISCARD YOUR GOD'S CROSS, WHICH YOU BELIEVE IN.
THAT ALL CHILDREN WHO ARE BORN ARE TO SURVIVE, NOT ONLY TO LIVE, BUT TO BE ABLE TO LIVE IN HAPPINESS!
THIS IS HEAVEN'S DESIRE!





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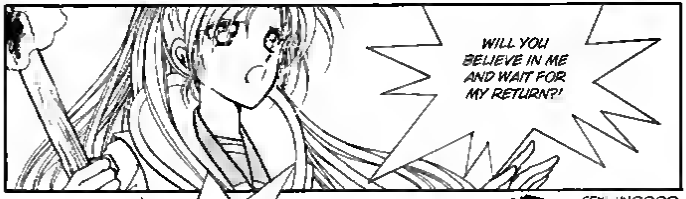
NOW, EVEN IF WE WERE TO FIGHT, OUR ENEMY HAS FIVE TIMES OUR NUMBERS
MOREOVER, WE'RE STILL TOO WEAK
WHAT A FIGURE
FIVE TIMES ?
AND I SHALL SHOW YOU THE NUMBERS BETWEEN OUR ENEMIES AND ALLIES WILL CHANGE!
OHH
SHIROU -SAMA
IS HE GOING TO LEAVE BY THAT BOAT SOON..?
THEREFORE, I ASK FOR YOU TO BELIEVE IN ME
THAT I SHALL RETURN WITH ALLIES



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LIGHTS
CUTS
OKAY, NOW, MIYAMOTO -KUN!
SFX FWSSSSHH
WE WILL CHANGE THIS LAND INTO PARAISO!

OHH...
OHH...
IT'S NIGHTTIME NOW, BUT YET... THERE'S A LIGHT... FROM HEAVEN...
WE WILL CHANGE THIS LAND INTO PARAISO!
WE WILL CHANGE THIS LAND INTO PARAISO!
WE WILL CHANGE THIS LAND INTO PARAISO!
WE WILL CHANGE THIS LAND INTO PARAISO!

WIND BLOWS
GOOD WORK NIGHT GUARD!
IS THERE ANYTHING WRONG?
MITSU-TOSHI -SAMA!
WELL... THAT...
THERE ARE SOMEHOW LOTS OF LAMPS LIGHTED ON THE BOATS FROM AMAKUSA...
IS SOMETHING COMING...?
HA?
AN ENEMY?

I CAN'T REALLY TELL — BUT THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE HAD SUCH A FEELING
IT'S LIKE .. THE SMELL OF A BLAST THAT HAS YET TO OCCUR
SOMETHING'S COMING...
HSOOHM
THE START OF AN APPROACHING STORM...
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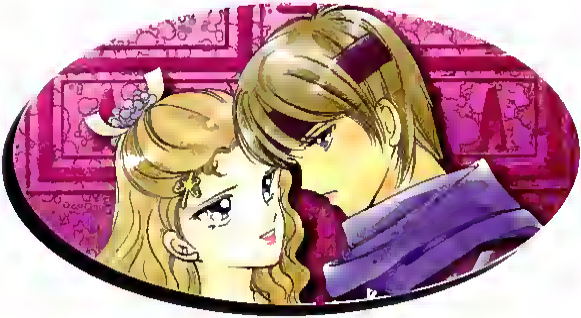

Credits

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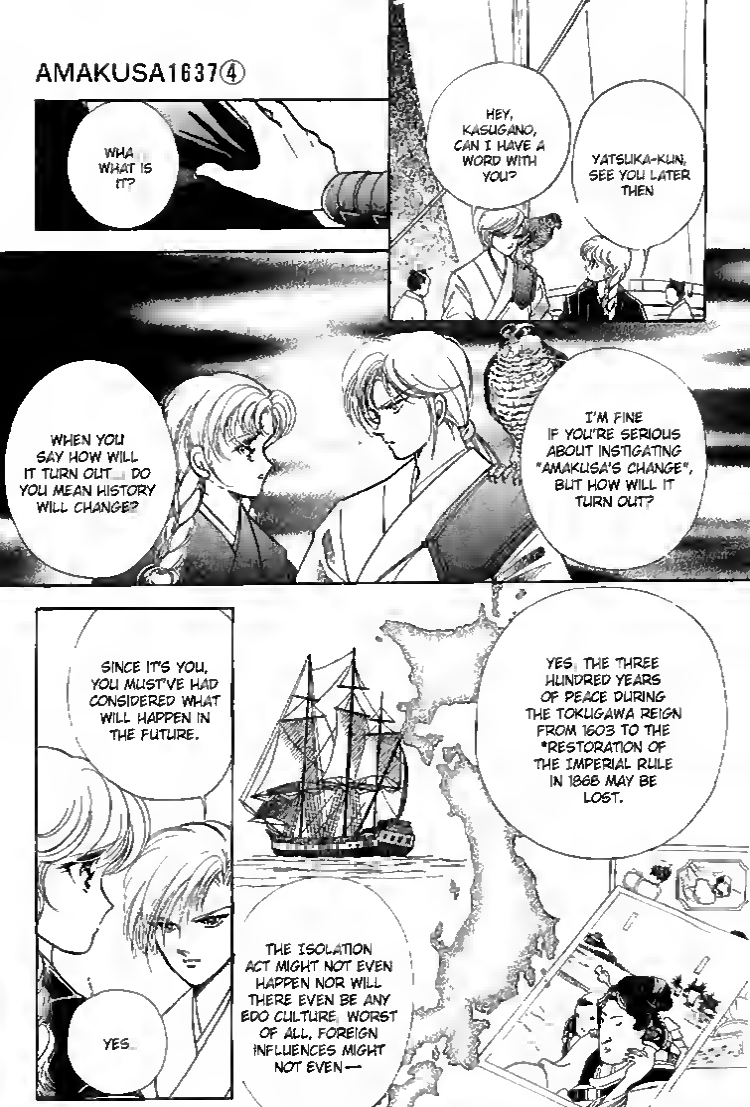
AMAKUSA 1637
アマクサ
MICHIYO AKAMI PRESENTS
(CHAPTER 15)

ALRIGHT. WE'LL BORROW YOUR BOAT. WHEN THE SKY TURNS CRIMSON, GET IN TOUCH WITH US. WE'LL CONTACT YOU TOO.
WELL THEN, I'LL RETURN TO THE CASTLE.
THANK YOU GUYS FOR YOUR ALL YOUR HELP!
YEP—
GOOD WORK, YATSUKA-KUN
YEAH!
AH— IT WENT PRETTY WELL—
SFX: CRASH
to have everyone do their part together
It's good after all.


WHA... WHAT IS IT?
HEY, KASUGANO, CAN I HAVE A WORD WITH YOU?
YATSUKA-KUN, SEE YOU LATER THEN
WHEN YOU SAY HOW WILL IT TURN OUT... DO YOU MEAN HISTORY WILL CHANGE?
I'M FINE IF YOU'RE SERIOUS ABOUT INSTIGATING "AMAKUSA'S CHANGE", BUT HOW WILL IT TURN OUT?
SINCE IT'S YOU, YOU MUST'VE HAD CONSIDERED WHAT WILL HAPPEN IN THE FUTURE.
YES.
YES. THE THREE HUNDRED YEARS OF PEACE DURING THE TOKUGAWA REIGN FROM 1603 TO THE *RESTORATION OF THE IMPERIAL RULE IN 1868 MAY BE LOST.
THE ISOLATION ACT MIGHT NOT EVEN HAPPEN NOR WILL THERE EVEN BE ANY EDO CULTURE. WORST OF ALL, FOREIGN INFLUENCES MIGHT NOT EVEN—

*note: The Restoration of the Imperial Rule is an important period in Japanese history which marked the end of Tokugawa Shogunate reign with the political power returning to the Emperor. The restoration of power exposed Japan to foreign influences and civilization that eventually led to the beginning of a modern Japan.

WELL, THAT ASIDE...
HMM SO YOU'RE SAYING THAT IEMITSU WILL DIE OF ILLNESS FIFTEEN YEARS LATER?
THIS WILL BE THE SAME EVEN IF HIS PERSECUTION OF CHRISTIANS CONTINUES TO BE IMPOSED.
I DON'T THINK THAT EVEN IF THE REVOLUTION WERE TO 'CHANGE', THE SHOGUNATE WOULD BE GONE ANYWAY. ACCORDING TO HISTORICAL FACTS, IEMITSU* WILL DIE OF ILLNESS FIFTEEN YEARS LATER.
DO YOU KNOW OF *MATSUDAIRA TADANAO?
YES NOW
PROBABLY? NOW?
THIS PERSON'S PROBABLY BEING EXILED NOW.
YES HE'S THE GRANDSON OF IEYASU, WHO IS IEMITSU'S COUSIN TADANAO IS ALSO A SHOGUN CANDIDATE
NO, I DON'T IS THAT THE SHOGUN FAMILY CALLED MATSUDAIRA?

*T/N: Iemitsu. please refer to chapter 13, page 26

*note. Matsudaira Tadanao (1595-1650) was a feudal lord during the early Edo period. He was the eldest son of Yuuki Hideyasu (1574-1607) who inherited Echizen (located in the center of Fukui Prefecture on Japan's northern coast) worth of 75,000 *koku* when his father died. He was exiled in 1623 due to his erratic behaviors due to his displeasure with the title bestowed to him for his achievement in a battle. *koku* please refer to chapter 14, page 6

IT COULD SOMEHOW BE DESTINY
REALLY?!
IT WAS SAID THAT HE COULD BE A CHRISTIAN
AHH
YES.
BUT WE'RE INVOLVED
DESTINY IS A MOVING ELEMENT THAT IS CHANGING HISTORY HERE AND THERE, BUT I FEEL THAT THE INVOLVED INDIVIDUALS AREN'T HERE

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SPEAKING OF WHICH, ISN'T THERE SOME MEANING IN YATSUKA-KUN BEING A CHAMBERLAIN?
WELL— IT'S A GOOD THING THAT YOU'RE HERE WITH US. AS I EXPECT OF THE SMARTEST BRAIN IN THE WHOLE COUNTRY.
WELL...
MAYBE.
AH, SURE... BUT...
GINJI, IT'S TIME TO GO YOU HAVE TO TEACH EVERYONE HOW TO USE THE PISTOLS
YOU TOO, YATSUKA-KUN
ALRIGHT, YOU TAKE CARE.
E... ERI-DONO.
HUH? YE... SURE.
SHIROU, YOU HAVE TO CHERISH ERI-DONO.

THIS... I THINK THIS WILL LOOK GOOD ON YOU. PLEASE ACCEPT IT AND DO TAKE CARE
HMM, FOR ME?
BYE BYE.
OH, YES. THANK YOU.
HAIL— HAIL—
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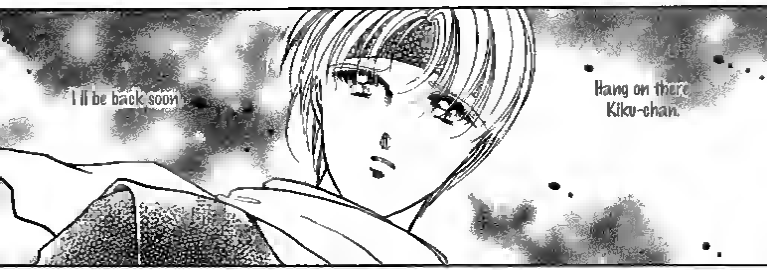
HMM— BUT THAT'S FINE. I'M SOMEHOW ONLY POPULAR ON THE HOLLAND BOAT WHICH I TOOK TO GET HERE. JAPANESE MEN KINDA DISTANCE THEMSELVES FROM ME.
Distance themselves
What's with that?
WHAT'S THAT? WHAT'S THAT? WHEN DID YOU GUYS START?
STOP IT. I'M NOT INTERESTED IN HIM
KIKU-CHAN.

WOULD YOU COME WITH ME?
EIJI-SAMA
I'M SO HAPPY.
COME ON, KIKU-CHAN.

NO.
NO, I CAN'T
IF I WERE TO GO WITH YOU, THE PURSUERS WORKING FOR HIS LORDSHIP, MATSUKURA, WILL BE AFTER YOU
KIKU-CHAN
ALRIGHT
I'LL BE AT SHIMABARA ENCOURAGING EVERYONE AND AWAITING YOUR EARLY RETURN WITH SHIROU-SAMA

YOU TOO, EIJI-SAMA.
KIKU-CHAN, DO TAKE CARE.
I WON'T FORGET YOU NOT EVEN FOR A MOMENT
PLEASE DO REMEMBER ME.
THAT 'SCARF' LOOKS GOOD ON YOU.

DON'T SMELL IT! YOU'RE WASTING IT.
AH, IT SMELLS NICE.
SNIFF
SNIFF
HMM. SO YOU GOT THIS FROM KIKU-CHAN.
THAT'S SWEET.


I'll be back soon
Hang on there, Kiku-chan.

HIGO HOSOKAWA - KUMAMOTO HAN
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WHERE ARE NATSUKI AND THE REST GOING?
THEY WENT TO PICK UP THE SWORD SENT OUT FOR SHARPENING ERI'S ALSO STICKING WITH THEM
ERI'S ALSO 'NATSUKI, NATSUKI' AND WON'T QUIET DOWN.
THAT'S BECAUSE NATSUKI'S LIKE A MAN—
BUT THEN—
CLANG
BANG
ARGUUUH
YAMAYA'S RESTAURANT
KWAAAH
IT'S A FIGHT! IT'S A FIGHT.
STOP IT
CRASH
CRASH

THAT'S DANGEROUS— IT'S DAYTIME, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
SHUT UP—
GET LOST!
(NATTER
(NATTER
(NATTER
(NATTER
NOOO!
AAAH!
HMPH
SPLASH
AY, YE! WHAT YER DOING?

SFX. SWINGS
SFX. SWINGS
SFX. SMACKS
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE TALKING TO, HUH?
WAAH. IT'S MITSUTOSHI-SAMA!
OO... IT'S THE YOUNG MASTER!
MI-MITSUTOSHI-SAMA?!
TIS... TIS IS BAD.
MITSUTOSHI-SAMA!
IT'S ALRIGHT NOW WERE YOU FRIGHTENED?
MITSUTOSHI-SAMA!

HAHAHAA
MITSUTOSHI-SAMA, PLEASE DON'T...
FONDLE FONDLE
IF ONLY HE DOESN'T DO SUCH THINGS
THAT'S ALRIGHT, NO BIG DEAL IT'S NATURAL FOR MEN TO DO THAT...
HUH— WHAT? WHAT'S GOING ON? WHO'S HERE?
HEY SEIKA, LEAVE IT!
PEEKS
OH...

Hmm, he looks like a wealthy young man.
AKISHIMA SEIKA
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
LONG RIDE? HMM... SHOULD I GO?
DO YOU WANT TO GO FOR A LONG RIDE?
HEY, SEIKA, WAIT UP!
EIJI, I'M GOING OFF FOR A WHILE.
YE A FOREIGNER?
WHO, WHO'S THAT? THAT MAN.
THAT'S THE CASTELLAN'S YOUNG SON, HOSOKAWA MITSUTOSHI

HEY, NATSUKI, SOMETHING TERRIBLE HAPPENED!
WHAT HAPPENED, EIJI?
WHAT, SEIKA AND MITSUTOSHI ...?
THEY SORT OF WENT OFF ON A HORSE
WHERE DID THEY GO? WE CAN MEET HIM WITHOUT GOING TO THE CASTLE THAT'S SO LUCKY— LET'S GO, MIYAMOTO
THAT WAY!
BUT SHE'S A GIRL AND IT SEEMS BAD TO BE HANGING OUT WITH SOMEONE WHO LOOKS LIKE A PLAYBOY! IS THAT REALLY ALRIGHT?
FOR HER TO HANG OUT WITH THAT KIND OF MAN!
HUMPH—
NATSUKI SEEMS TO LIKE THAT FELLOW
What should I do?

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WAH...
GALLOPS
THE FLOWER FIELD OF WILD CHRYSANTHEMUM
WHAT DO YOU THINK? PRETTY, ISN'T IT?
CARRIES

HMPH...
YOU'RE GOOD AT KISSING... SO YOU'RE THAT KIND OF MAN.
KISS?
FONDLES
YOU'RE SORT OF DIFFERENT... THAT HAIR COLOR... DO YOU HAVE FOREIGNER'S BLOOD IN YOU?
WHAT'S THIS?
AH...
AH!

OH...
LOOK, IT'S PLAYING MUSIC
THIS... THIS IS WELL... EH—
THE MUSIC'S BEAUTIFUL WHERE IS THIS FROM? IS IT FROM OLANDA? OR PORTUGAL?
WHAT CAN THIS DO?
WHAT IS THIS? I FEEL THAT IT'S FROM THE FOREIGN COUNTRY, BUT YET IT DOESN'T SEEM SO...
SORR—Y, I'M NOW AT A CHRYSANTHEMUM FIELD OUTSIDE THE TOWN
YUP, YES, HMM, IT'S INSIDE THE PINE TREE FOREST THAT'S AT THE EDGE OF THE CLIFF
WHERE ARE YOU, SEIKA?
PI-RI-RI-RI-RI-RI-RI
NATSUKI!
AH

SNATCH(CHE)
HEY!
WHAT'S THIS? WHAT'S INSIDE IT?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
TAKEN BACK
OH, IS THIS MITSUTOSHI?
WAH!
WHA— WHAT ARE YOU? WHERE ARE YOU? ARE YOU A MONSTER?
I'M NOT IN THE MOBILE THIS IS ONLY MY VOICE THAT YOU HEAR
EVEN IF I'M FAR AWAY, YOU CAN HEAR ME
PLEASE WAIT FOR A WHILE. I'LL BE THERE SOON
HUH...? HELLO?
BE HERE?
BZZZ-
WHAT'S.. THIS .?
CHUCK!
IT'S A MOBILE
MOBILE?

YOU ARE, WITHOUT A DOUBT...
THERE, THERE THEY ARE, MITSUTOSHI
SHIROU...
OH, NO, NO.
COULD IT BE THAT SEIKA'S YOUR WOMAN?
WE'RE FRIENDS—
SQUEAKS
YES, YES, I'M MASUDA SHIROU. THERE, THERE, WOLF...

HMPH,
MAYBE OUR MOBILES CAN WORK IN THE EVENING TOO.
I'LL TRY AGAIN NEXT TIME.
YES, THE SKY TURNS RED IN THE EVENING, AND I WAS THINKING MAYBE IT'S POSSIBLE TO CALL THROUGH, SO I TRIED.
THE MOBILES ARE WELL-CONNECTED.
I HEARD
SOMETHING HAPPENED IN AMAKUSA YESTERDAY...
IT WAS SOMETHING INCREDIBLE.

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ACCORDING TO THE RUMOR, GOD'S MESSENGER APPEARED, WALKING ON WATER AS THE SHOOTING STAR FLASHED ACROSS THE SKY...
THAT PERSON TOOK ON A BEAUTIFUL FORM THAT WAS NEITHER MAN NOR WOMAN
ALTHOUGH IT WAS AT NIGHT, IT WAS SAID THAT THE SUN SHONE UPON THIS PERSON
EVERYONE CALLS THIS MESSENGER
BY THE NAME OF...
'FRANCISCO'
OR THE NAME— 'SHIROU'

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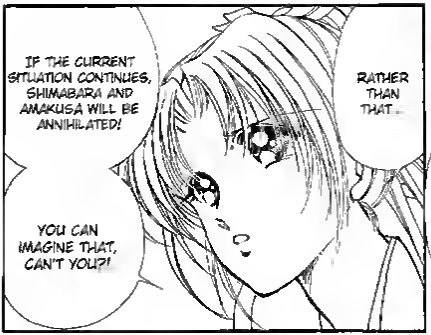
I'M JUST A MERE HUMAN— BUT...
COULD YOU REALLY BE GOD'S MESSENGER?
WHO ARE YOU ACTUALLY? I SEE YOU AS A MERE HUMAN, BUT...
I CAME FROM A PLACE THAT ISN'T HERE...
SOMEWHERE EXTREMELY... FAR...
BUT I CAME TO THIS AREA BECAUSE I NEED TO HAVE A TALK WITH YOU.
WITH ME?


IF THE CURRENT SITUATION CONTINUES, SHIMABARA AND AMAKUSA WILL BE ANNIHILATED!
RATHER THAN THAT...
YOU CAN IMAGINE THAT, CAN'T YOU!?

YOU SHOULD HAVE HEARD IT EVEN YOU TOO!

DOES YOUR HEART NOT HURT? THERE ARE THOUSANDS AND THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE STARVING BEFORE YOUR EYES

I DON'T TALK TO CHRISTIANS AND SUCH
IF YOU GUYS ARE CHRISTIANS, YOU'D ONLY BE ARRESTED.

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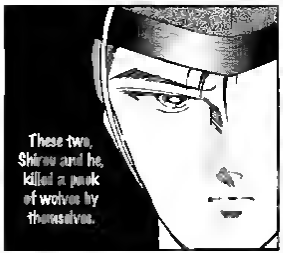
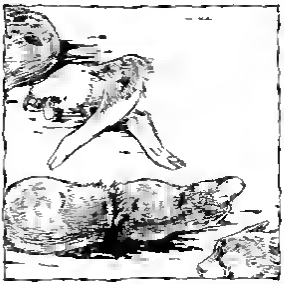
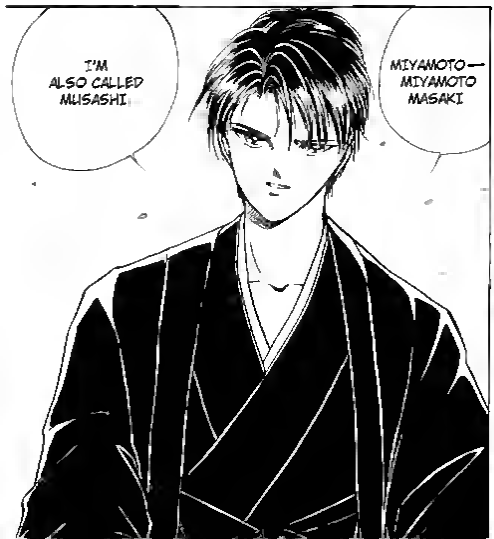
YOU CAN HEAR IT, CAN'T YOU? THOSE CRIES FROM SHIMABARA AND AMAKUSA!
THE CRIES FOR HELP THAT TRAVEL ALONG WITH THE WIND!
YOUNG MASTER!
RATTLE
PROTECT THE YOUNG MASTER!
RATTLE
SHUT UP, YOU CHRISTIANS! STOP YOUR NONSENSE!


These two, Shirou and he, killed a pack of wolves by themselves.

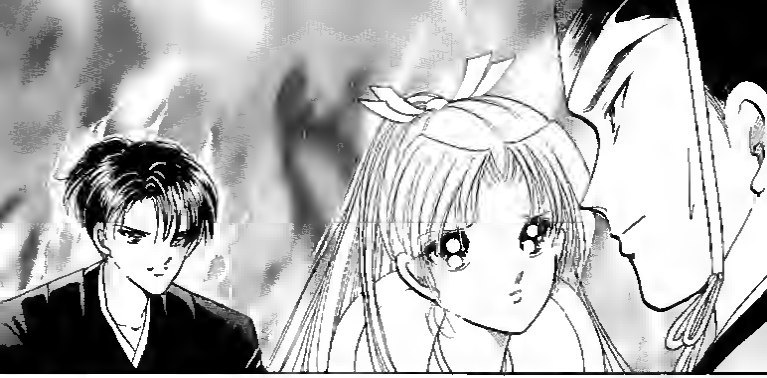


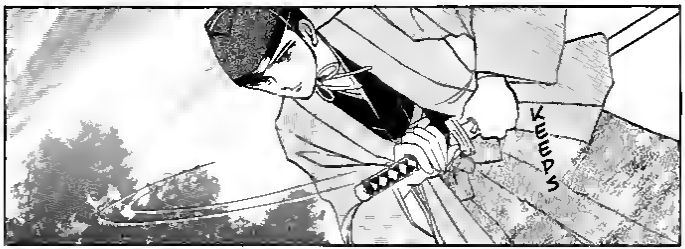
HEY, DO YOU WANT YOUR UNDERLINGS TO BE KILLED LIKE A PACK OF WOLVES?
SORRY ABOUT THIS, BUT THEY AREN'T OUR MATCH.


I'M ALSO CALLED MUSASHI.
MIYAMOTO— MIYAMOTO MASAKI

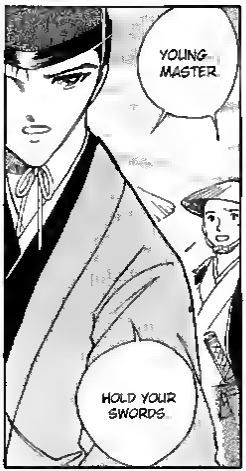
WHAT'S YOUR NAME? ARE YOU SHIROU'S COMRADE?

THAT'S BECAUSE THIS FELLOW— ISN'T LYING.
WHY DID YOU BECOME THIS FELLOW'S COMRADE IN SUCH CIRCUM-STANCES?!
YOU SAID MIYAMOTO MUSASHI?! THAT RENOWNED MAN?!
HOW ABOUT TRUSTING YOUR OWN INTUITION?!
HOSOKAWA MITSUTOSHI, YOU SAID THAT YOU WOULD BE MY FRIEND.
YOU EVEN ASKED ME IF I'D BECOME YOUR VASSAL.
I JUST WANT TO HAVE A TALK WITH YOU.



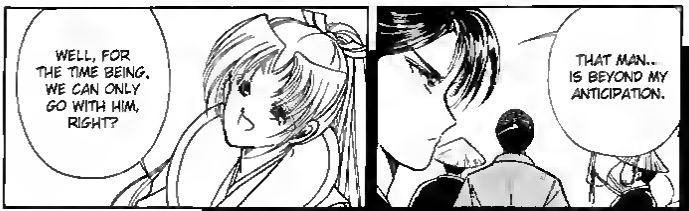

KWEAS

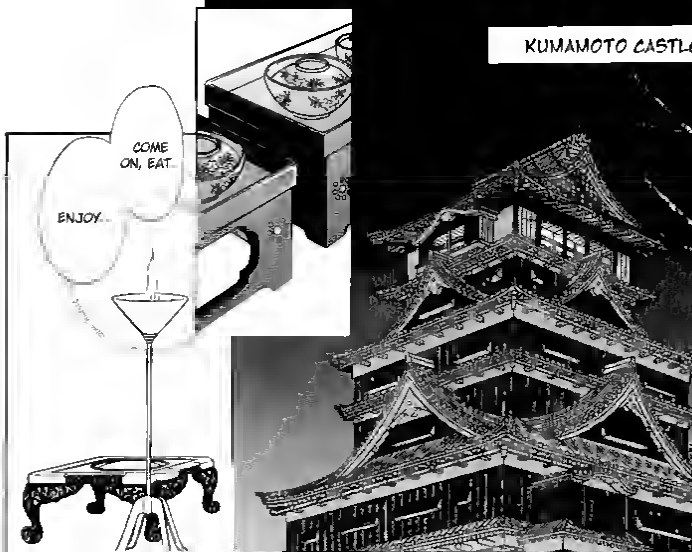
HE HELPED ME GET RID OF A PACK OF WOLVES.
I'M SORRY, IT'S A MISUNDERSTANDING I HAVE TO THANK THIS GUY


YOUNG MASTER.
HOLD YOUR SWORDS.

HEY SHIROU,
YOU'LL BE COMING TO MY CASTLE, WON'T YOU?

IT'S HARD TO TELL...
I'M SURPRISED— SO THAT'S MITSUTOSHI—
IS IT ALRIGHT TO GO WITH HIM?


WELL, FOR THE TIME BEING, WE CAN ONLY GO WITH HIM, RIGHT?
THAT MAN.. IS BEYOND MY ANTICIPATION.


KUMAMOTO CASTLE
COME ON, EAT.
ENJOY...

I feel a murderous aura from our surroundings, enclosing us.
ARE YOU NOT EMBARRASSED TO BE SO FRIGHTENED OF IEMITSU?
I DON'T REMEMBER YOU HAVING THE CRITERION TO SAY THAT.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
AH, YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT OUR FORMER PRIME MINISTER, HOSOKAWA
IN THE COURSE OF TIME, YOUR DESCENDANTS WILL GOVERN JAPAN WHAT AN EMBARRASSMENT
AND THAT MAN USED TO HOLD POLITICAL POWER

ERI, COULD YOU JUST EXPLAIN A LITTLE TO HIM?
HOSOKAWA MORIHIRO WAS THE 18TH HEAD OF THE CLAN.
HE HELD THAT POSITION AS A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF COUNCILORS AND THE GOVERNOR OF KUMAMOTO PREFECTURE.
HE HELD OFFICE AS THE PRIME MINISTER OF JAPAN IN 1993— IT'S SOMETHING LIKE THE SHOGUN.
BUT HE STEPPED DOWN AFTER A MERE YEAR AND RESIGNED HIS POSITION AS A MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT IN 1998.
AND I HAD THOUGHT THAT HE'D PERSEVERE MUCH LONGER.
AH, SPEAKING OF WHICH, YOU GUYS LOOK ALIKE!
OH— YES, QUITE A BIT
STO—...!
HE WAS RATHER COOL
STOP IT! WHY ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT THE FUTURE AS IF YOU'VE SEEN IT?!

I'M ASKING YOU AGAIN—
IT'S BECAUSE WE HAVE SEEN IT.
ANSWER ME HONESTLY
WHO ARE YOU PEOPLE?
AND WHERE DID YOU COME FROM?

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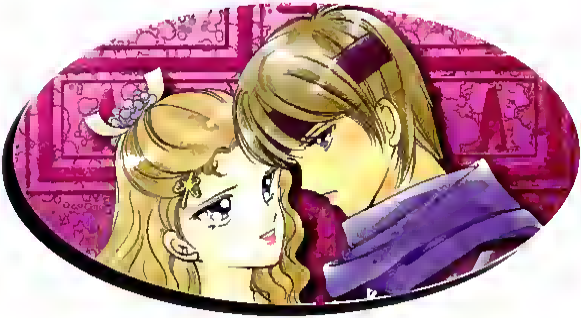

Credits

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AMAKUSA 1637
アマクサ
MIOMIYU AKAISHI PRESENTS
(CHAPTER 16)

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WHO ARE YOU PEOPLE? AND WHERE DO YOU COME FROM?
WE'RE FROM THIS COUNTRY IN THE YEAR 2000 AD.
2000 AD? WHAT'S THAT?
TWO THOUSAND YEARS AFTER THE BIRTH OF CHRISTIANITY.
HUMPH. THE CHRISTIANS' CALENDAR?
It's natural to say that two thousand years ago was adoption of the Christian calendar.
Ah, come to think of it.

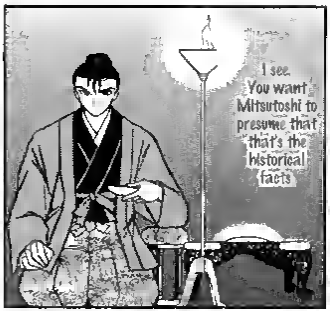
IF WHAT YOU SAY IS TRUE, WHAT HAVE YOU COME HERE TO DO?
SO—
THREE HUNDRED AND SIXTY-FOUR YEARS. ? YOU EVEN PREDICT THE FUTURE?
WELL, THAT'S THREE HUNDRED AND SIXTY-FOUR YEARS FROM NOW
THAT'S RIGHT. IF IT'S POSSIBLE, WE'D VERY MUCH WANT TO RETURN.
WE DIDN'T COME HERE BECAUSE WE WANTED TO.
WE DIDN'T COME BECAUSE WE WANTED TO THIS PLACE THAT WE'VE ARRIVED AT IS HELL
I HAVE FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS TRIED ALL KINDS OF METHODS TO RETURN, BUT ALL HAVE FAILED.
HELL

PEOPLE WHO CAN'T PAY THEIR ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS ARE KILLED,
AND THOSE WHO ARE CHRISTIANS ARE KILLED AS WELL.
PEOPLE DIE BECAUSE THERE'S NO FOOD
THERE'S NOTHING BUT DESPAIR, AND THEY SEEK HELP FROM THE UNCONFIRMED PROPHET MADE TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO
PROPHECY... I HEARD ABOUT IT, BUT IT'S JUST AN ABSURD RUMOUR SPREADING AROUND...
THAT'S IT. EVERYONE BELIEVES THAT THAT LAD IS FRANCISCO SHIROU FROM AMAKUSA.
TWENTY-FIVE YEARS LATER, A BEAUTIFUL LAD WHO WAS EQUIPPED WITH KNOWLEDGE WHICH WAS NEVER HEARD OF SHALL APPEAR,
AND A SIGN FROM HEAVEN SHALL OCCUR—
AND—
YOU'RE THAT FRANCISCO SHIROU FROM AMAKUSA, AREN'T YOU?

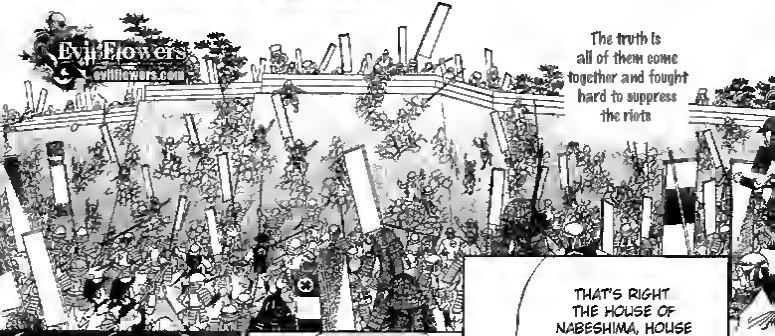
YOU...
SINCE THAT'S WHAT I'M BEING CALLED, SO THAT'S WHO I AM.
YES, EVEN IF I WERE TO SAY I'M NOT, WHAT WOULD YOU THINK?
EH, THIS WON'T END EVEN WITH THE RIOT.
ERI...
Well..
What should I say?
YOU INTEND TO INSTIGATE A RIOT, DON'T YOU?
SO WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO COMING TO THE HOUSE OF HOSOKAWA?
IT'LL SHAKE THE TOKUGAWA SHOGUNATE AND IMPLICATE THE WHOLE OF JAPAN.
OHH...

*note. The Battle of Sekigahara occurred between the Tokugawa Ieyasu and the retainer of Toyotomi Hideyori, Ishida Mitsunari in 1600. The battle determined the ruler of Japan, and Ieyasu won the fight

I WASN'T BORN IN TIME FOR THE BATTLE OF SEKIGABARA*. CAN I ACHIEVE OFFICIAL RANK HERE?
YOU SHOULD KNOW, DON'T YOU? SINCE YOU COME FROM THE FUTURE


I see. You want Mitsutoshi to presume that that's the historical facts

HEY, LISTEN,
IT'S NOT JUST HOSOKAWA ALONE. THE REST OF THE CLANS ARE ASSISTING TOO, AREN'T THEY?
YEAH... THAT'S RIGHT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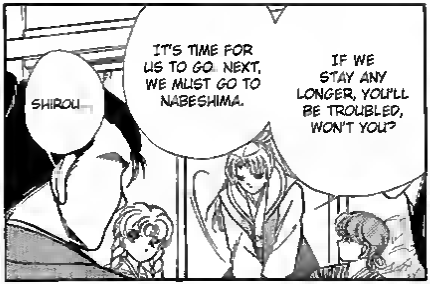
The truth is all of them come together and fought hard to suppress the riots

...

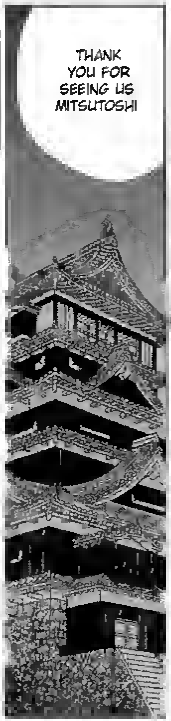
KOKURA... THAT'S WHERE YOU ARE, MIYAMOTO MUSASHI...

THAT'S RIGHT THE HOUSE OF NABESHIMA, HOUSE OF KURODA, AND THE CLAN OF KOKURA ARE HELPING—

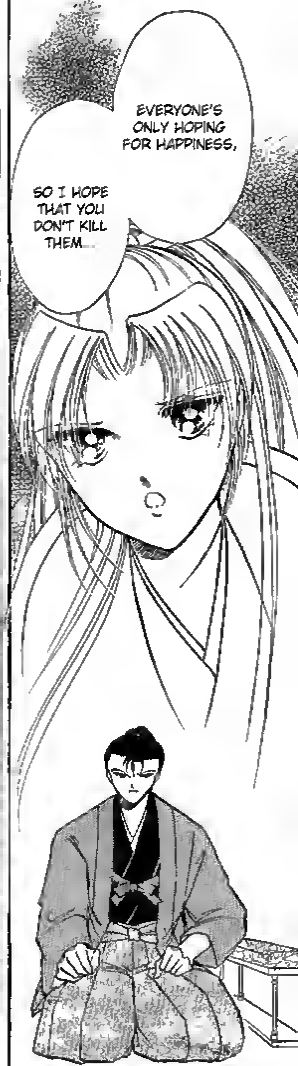
THEY DON'T START THE RIOT BECAUSE THEY'RE CHRISTIANS!
IS DEFINITELY OUT OF THE QUESTION!
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THE OTHER CLANS, BUT FOR MY CLAN TO SUPPORT THE CHRISTIANS
IT'S NOT ABOUT 'LIVING' WITH SCARCELY A BREATH...
THEY RISE TO PROTEST BECAUSE THEY DON'T WANT TO DIE.
THEY RISE TO PROTEST FOR SURVIVAL
STOP YOUR CHRISTIAN BABBLE!
IT'S NOT NONSENSE! THESE ARE CONSIDERED NORMAL IN OUR WORLD.
IT'S ABOUT CREATING — AN EMANCIPATED WORLD FOR KNOWLEDGE, FOR WORK, AND FOR THE RELIGION.


SHIROU...
IT'S TIME FOR US TO GO. NEXT, WE MUST GO TO NABESHIMA.
IF WE STAY ANY LONGER, YOU'LL BE TROUBLED, WON'T YOU?

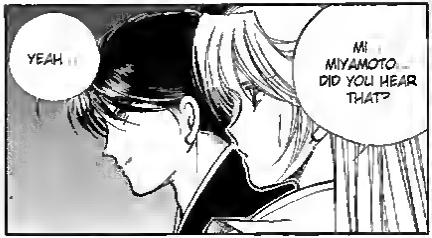
PLEASE, SIR. I'D LIKE TO SEE MIYAMOTO MUSASHI-DONO.


THANK YOU FOR SEEING US MITSUTOSHI

YOU'RE JINOSA ZAEMON— WHAT'S THE MATTER?

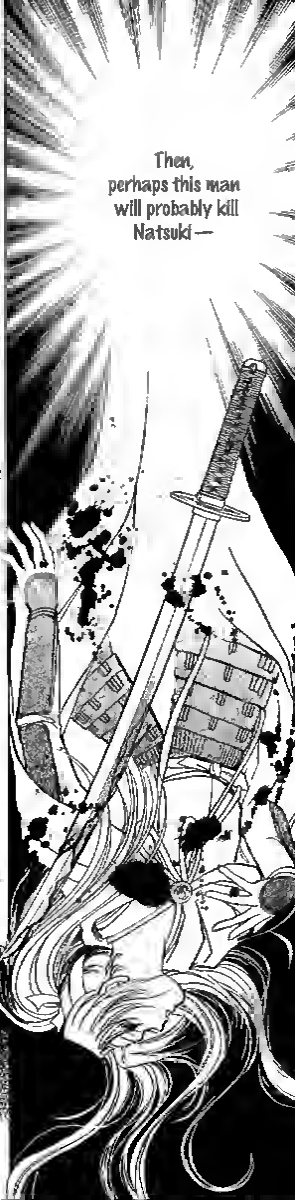

EVERYONE'S ONLY HOPING FOR HAPPINESS,
SO I HOPE THAT YOU DON'T KILL THEM...

A MATCH WITH MIYAMOTO MUSASHI-DONO —?
PLEASE GRANT ME A MATCH WITH MIYAMOTO MUSASHI-DONO!
IF I REMEMBER RIGHT...
A famous man?
WHAT? ERI, YOU'VE HEARD OF HIS NAME?
JINOSA ZAEMON...
HE'S THE MAN WHO TOOK AMAKUSA SHIROU'S HEAD DURING THE REBELLION...
JINOSA ZAEMON FROM THE HOUSE OF HOSOKAWA.
Beheaded —?!


YEAH...
MI MIYAMOTO... DID YOU HEAR THAT?

I'M FINE WITH IT—
IS IT ALRIGHT WITH YOU IF WE USE WOODEN SWORDS INSTEAD?
MIYAMOTO-DONO, HOW ABOUT IT?

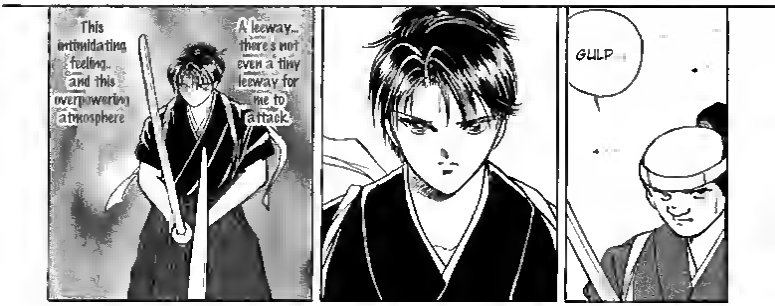
BUT—
I WON'T GUARANTEE HIS LIFE.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.


Then, perhaps this man will probably kill Natsuki—

JINOSA ZAEMON HAS—
CHALLENGED MIYAMOTO MUSASHI-DONO TO A FIGHT
IS THAT FOR REAL?
NO... NOW?!
TOSU
MIYAMOTO ...
YOU DON'T INTEND TO KILL HIM, RIGHT?!
THIS IS THE MAN WHO MAY PROBABLY KILL YOU.
BUT THAT'S IN THE FUTURE—
AH...?
GRAB

I WON'T LET ANYONE KILL YOU
MIYA—
WELL, IT'S ONLY NATURAL AFTER ALL, SHIROU'S PRETTIER THAN THE WOMEN HERE
Geez, he doesn't seem to mind
OOPS
SORRY TO INTERRUPT AT SUCH AN INCONVENIENT TIME
MI... MITSUTOSHI

IS THAT THE HIGHLY-REPUTED MIYAMOTO MUSASHI-DONO?
YES.
MASTER OF THE HOUSE OF HOSOKAWA
HOSOKAWA TADATOSHI
MY FATHER, TADATOSHI'S SAYING THAT HE WANTS TO WATCH THE MATCH
MIYAMOTO-DONO, EVERYTHING'S READY

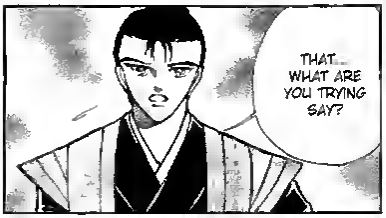

This intimidating feeling... and this overpowering atmosphere
A leeway... there's not even a tiny leeway for me to attack.
GULP

Miyamoto Musashi.
This is
SFX: TWIGH
WHOOOSH
THE TWO OF THEM AREN'T MOVING.
UM, UMPH...

SFX: SLASHES
JINOSA ZAEMON!
-AAAAHH!

IT'S A FIGHT WHICH JINOSA ZAEMON HAD ASKED FOR. I THINK IT'S GOOD ENOUGH THAT HE DIDN'T LOSE HIS LIFE.
STOP IT!
DAMN YOU...
WHY DIDN'T YOU KILL HIM?
HE'S THE ONE WHO IS GOING TO KILL SHIROU, ISN'T HE?
SLIPS

NO, I DON'T THINK SO— YOU AREN'T THAT DENSE.
DO YOU REALLY THINK THAT I'D BELIEVE WHAT YOU GUYS HAD SAID?
SO YOU HAD OVERHEARD.
I DIDN'T KILL HIM BECAUSE NATSU— SHIROU DOESN'T LIKE KILLING PEOPLE
Ahhh
SO HOSOKAWA ISN'T JOINING SHIROU
THAT'S BECAUSE A MAN FROM THE HOSOKAWA HOUSE KILLS SHIROU
YOU SAID THAT YOU WANTED TO MAKE A NAME FOR YOURSELF.
COME TO THINK OF IT, THERE'S NO WAY THAT MY DESCENDANTS CAN RULE JAPAN FOR AS LONG AS THREE HUNDRED YEARS, EVEN AFTER HOSOKAWA OVERTURNS THE SHOGUNATE
BUT YOU'VE NEVER KILLED A MAN, HAVE YOU?


THAT... WHAT ARE YOU TRYING SAY?

IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WISH FOR, THOUSANDS OF LIVES WOULD BE KILLED

YOUR SWORD POINTS TO THE PEOPLE TO THE WOMEN, TO THE AGED, AND TO THE YOUNG
YOU'LL ROB THEIR LIVES COMPLETELY

YOU HAVEN'T SEEN THE WAY MY SWORD CEASES A HUMAN LIFE, HAVE YOU?

WELL, THAT'S FOR YOU TO DECIDE.
ANYWAY—
SO... IS THAT HOW IT'S GOING TO BE?
WE'LL SHOW YOU THAT WE'RE CHANGING HISTORY.
AND I BELIEVE THAT WE'VE COME HERE TO DO JUST THAT.
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IF YOU'RE AFRAID OF IEMITSU,
—YOU WILL KILL
AND DO YOU REALLY THINK THAT I'D LET YOU GUYS LEAVE JUST LIKE THIS?
YOU— THINK THAT I WON'T KILL A MAN, DON'T YOU?

ENRAGE
HA?
I'LL KILL YOU HERE AND NOW,
MIYAMOTO MUSASHI!
SFX: WOOSH

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
SHIROU?
YOU CAN'T DO THAT. I'LL BE TROUBLED IF EITHER OF YOU DIE.
MIYAMOTO, YOU TOO, DON'T PROVOKE HIM.
FWISH
What... what was that?

When did he come in between us?
When did he pull out his sword?
When did he swing his sword?
WELL, THEN...
TAKE CARE, MITSUTOSHI
WHEN WE MEET AGAIN, I HOPE IT'S NOT THE BATTLEFIELD
If I were to kill them,
I'd also be dead.
BY THE WAY MITSUTOSHI, I'M SORRY THAT WE LIED
BUT...
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I WON'T ASK THAT YOU BE OUR ALLIES. I ONLY HOPE THAT YOU WON'T TAKE UP YOUR WEAPONS AND JOIN THE FIGHTING.
SHIROU...
PLEASE, I BEG YOU
YOU...
EH..

HUMM...
WHAT... WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
STAY AWAY!
YOU'RE SO PRETTY THAT I'M BEWITCHED
DON'T YOU TOUCH HIM!
GOD'S MESSENGER...

LET ME SAY THIS FIRST. THE NEXT TIME WE MEET, IT MAY BE ON THE BATTLEFIELD...
HERE, A BOUQUET OF FLOWERS AS AN APOLOGY.
TUROWS
MITSUTOSHI ?
I DON'T WANT TO KILL WOMEN AND CHILDREN
BUT...
I'LL DO THINGS ACCORDING TO WHAT I BELIEVE IN.
DO LIVE LONG, SHIROU...
YES, THAT'D BE FINE. THAT'D BE ENOUGH!
MITSUTOSHI

He appears as God's messenger.
He's a genius swordsman.
and people are captivated by looking at him.
Where did they come from?
It doesn't really matter
And, without a doubt...
over 30,000 people in Shimabara Amakusa
are influenced by that man.

I wonder... could that fellow be.. a woman?
When I pressed myself against him, he was softer than I thought
Is Miyamoto Musashi in love with that fellow?
That makes sense..

—THAT'S RIGHT. I WON'T SAY IT'S BAD.
HMM— IT'S MORE OF A 'NOT SURE'.
ANYWAY, THAT CONCLUDED OUR VISIT TO THE HOSOKAWA CLAN IS THE FEELING AN... 'OKAY'?
OH— THAT SOUNDS INTERESTING.
WHAT'S THAT? WHAT'S WITH THE GHOST CAT THING—
DO YOU HAVE ANY DATA REGARDING THE HOUSE OF NABESHIMA?
YES, IT SHOULD HAPPEN MUCH LATER, BUT THE CAT WHICH CAUSES THE UNREST SHOULD ALREADY BE IN THEIR HOUSE NOW
UNFORTUNATELY, THAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN MUCH LATER, IF I REMEMBER IT RIGHT.
THE GHOST CAT DISTURBANCE FROM HOUSE OF NABESHIMA OF THE SAKA CLAN IN HIZEN
THE MOST INFAMOUS ONE WAS
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BUT WHY THE SECOND SON? WHAT ABOUT THE ELDEST SON?
ACCORDING TO HISTORY, THE SECOND SON WHO WAS THE HEIR DIED LAST YEAR AT THE AGE OF TWENTY-THREE
AFTER HIM, THE NEXT SUCCESSOR IS HIS SON, MITSUSHIGE
HUH— SO THE NEW HEIR IS STILL A CHILD?
THE STRATEGIST FOR SHOGUNATE IEMITSU'S ARMIES IS—
NABESHIMA MOTOSHIGE.
BOW YOUR HEADS—
BOW YOUR HEADS
THAT'S BECAUSE—
WHAT?! MIYAMOTO, YOU KNEW ABOUT IT?
WHY ISN'T THE ELDEST SON MADE THE HEIR?

BARKS
BARKS
OH— IT'S MY FIRST TIME SEEING THIS—
IT'S THE PROCESSION OF THE FEUDAL LORD! QUICK, BOW YOUR HEADS!
HI, TARO
SANJI!
SFX: BLOCKS
RISES ARM
OFFENDER!
AH!

WH... WHAT? IT'S BAD... ISN'T IT?
OH... DEAR—
NATSUKI—
UH...
WHAT AN OFFENSIVE FELLOW!
MIYAMOTO MUSASHI —?
I'M MIYAMOTO MUSASHI OF THE KOKURA CLAN.
THIS FELLOW'S WITH ME.
I DEEPLY APOLOGIZE FOR HIS MISCONDUCT.

LONG TIME NO SEE, MIYAMOTO-DONO
IT'S ALRIGHT. STEP DOWN
SLIDES
DONO...
SOMEBODY YOU KNOW?
YES, IT HAS BEEN QUITE A WHILE...

NABESHIMA MOTOSHIGE-DONO.
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This man is the oldest son of the House of Nabeshima?!
SORRY ABOUT OUR MISCONDUCT
DON'T WORRY, IT'S ALRIGHT. ANYWAY, THAT WAS DUE TO A CHILD AND A DOG.

THE SUCCESSOR WOULD BE THE SECOND SON,
HIS MOTHER'S A MAID OF LOW SOCIAL CLASS. THEREFORE IT WAS DECIDED THAT
BUT HIS FATHER DOTES ON HIM.
NO, THAT'S NOT IT.
I THOUGHT THAT THE ELDEST SON WAS A USELESS MAN
He was called— The tragic swordsman Nabeshima Motoshige.
SINCE HE'S KNOWN AS THE STRATEGIST FOR IEMITSU'S ARMIES, THEN HE MUST BE QUITE A SWORDSMAN TOO
I THINK I'VE SEEN HIS NAME SOMEWHERE IN A NOVEL...
Amakusa 1637 volume 4 - END -

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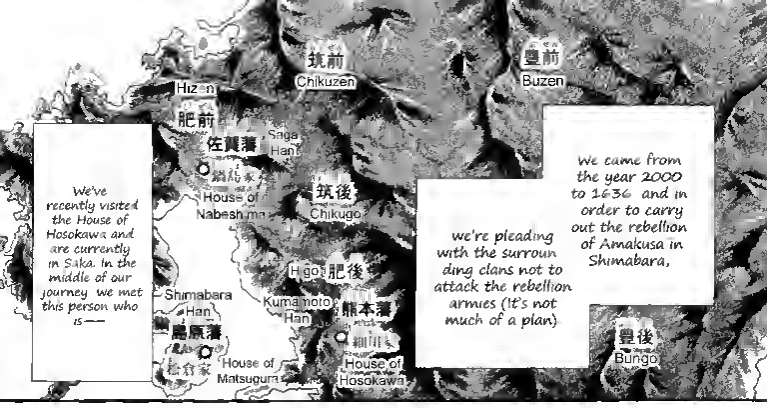
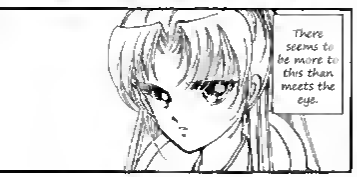

筑前
Chikuzen
豊前
Buzen
Hizen
肥前
佐賀藩
Saga Han
鍋島家
House of Nabeshima
筑後
Chikugo
We've recently visited the House of Hosokawa and are currently in Saka. In the middle of our journey we met this person who is——
We came from the year 2000 to 1636 and in order to carry out the rebellion of Amakusa in Shimabara,
we're pleading with the surroun ding clans not to attack the rebellion armies (It's not much of a plan).
Hago
肥後
Shimabara Han
島原藩
Kumamoto Han
熊本藩
細川家
松倉家
House of Matsugura
House of Hosokawa
豊後
Bungo

MIYAMOTO-DONO, IF YOU AREN'T IN A HURRY, WOULD YOU STOP BY MY HUMBLE PLACE IN TOWN?

THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND INVITATION. I WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO GO,
Although he's the eldest son, he isn't the heir


There seems to be more to this than meets the eye.

the eldest son of the House of Nabeshima in Saka Han Nabeshima Motoshige.

SO YOU'RE GOING TO MEET MY FATHER——
BUT—— I'M AFRAID I'D HAVE TO DECLINE AS I'M ON WAY TO MEET YOUR FATHER, KATSUSHIGE MAYBE NEXT TIME THEN—
BOW YOUR HEAD ——
BOW YOUR HEAD
SHHH!
HOW WOULD IT BE IF THAT PERSON WAS THE NEXT HEIR——
He's so loved by the people.
HE'S REALLY KIND-HEARTED.
IT WAS A GOOD THAT IT'S MOTOSHIGE'S PROCESSION
WHAT WOULD'VE HAPPENED IF IT HAD BEEN SOMEONE ELSE INSTEAD?
SANJI, YOU ACTUALLY DASHED OUT DURING THE PROCESSION, WHAT A DANGEROUS THING TO DO——
IT'S ALRIGHT.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH, MISTER ATTENDANT.

FURTHER-MORE,MOTO-SHIGE'S THE STRATEGIST FOR IE-MITSU'S ARMIES.
HIS FATHER, KATSUSHIGE, IS THE CURRENT CASTELLAN OF SAGA WHICH IS WORTH 350,000 GOKU.
HE'S REALLY POPULAR. IT'S RARE TO MEET HIM, SO I'D REALLY LIKE TO SPEAK TO HIM
HUMPH
HE'S A DANGEROUS MAN, SO YOU'D BETTER NOT GET NEAR HIM
What's... this murderous aura?
The patrol's running... Something's going on.
ERI, LEND ME YOUR HORSE.

SFX: VWEZ
SFX: VWEZ
NATSUKI!
SOME-THING HAS HAPPENED TO MOTOSHIGE!
SFX: PIEKCES
DONO! PLEASE RUN, DONO!
SFX: WOOSH
NOODLE STALL

THIS IS. .
NATSUKI! BE CAREFUL, THE ARROWS ARE POISONOUS!
WHAT? POISONOUS?!
MIYAMOTO-DONO!
NOODLE STALL
MOTOSHIGE-DONO!
SFX:CLANG'S
SFX:CLANG'S
UGH
HAH!
BLOCKS
NOODLE STALL
BLOCKS
SFX:STAB'S
AH!
WHIZ
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HERE, THIS IS WATER
DAMN...
POUR THIS O-VER YOUR WOUND SO THAT THE POISON WON'T SPREAD
IT'D HELP TO STOP THE BLEEDING TOO
IDIOT! IF WE WERE TO SEND HIM THERE MOTOSHIGE-SAMA'D BE KILLED!
WE'VE GOT NO OTHER CHOICE!
THE NEAREST DOCTOR'S AT SAGA CASTLE
IS THERE ANY DOCTOR AROUND HERE?
THE.. THERE'S ALSO SOME WATER HERE.
IT'S TERRIBLE! MOTOSHIGE-SAMA'S DYING.
OH, THANK YOU.
Motoshige would be killed if he goes to Saga Castle?!

FALL
MOTO-SHIGE-DONO!
SHH— WATCH YOUR WORDS!
ANYWAY, THE ASSAILANTS MUST'VE BEEN FROM MITSUSHIGE'S SIDE MOTOSHIGE-SAMA'S REALLY PITIFUL
ALRIGHT
MIYAMOTO-SAMA, PLEASE, PLEASE SAVE DONO—SAVE DONO'S LIFE .. PLEASE HELP HIM.
THIS IS BAD. THE POISON'S SPREADING. WE'VE GOT TO DO SOME-THING!
DONOOO...
DONO
WE'LL DEFINITELY SAVE HIM.
He's so loved by his people.

I won't let him be killed.
GET ON THE HORSE! I'M TAKING YOU TO SAGA CASTLE!
I'LL DEFINITELY PROTECT DONO THOSE WHO AREN'T BADLY HURT, COME WITH ME!
DONO
LET'S GO, MIYAMOTO!
YES, THAT'S RIGHT!
DON'T BE RECKLESS! ARE YOU REALLY BRINGING MOTOSHIGE TO SAGA CASTLE?
BUT I'LL PROTECT HIM WITHOUT FAIL!
gallop
gallop
WHO ARE YOU..?
YOU AREN'T MIYAMOTO'S RETAINER, RIGHT?

This guy...
You're ordering me——?
DON'T SPEAK, MOTOSHIGE. HOLD ON TIGHT SO THAT YOU WON'T FALL!
SFX. GALLOPS
SFX. GALLOPS
HIZEN SAGA CASTLE
OPEN THE DOOR!
OPEN UP!

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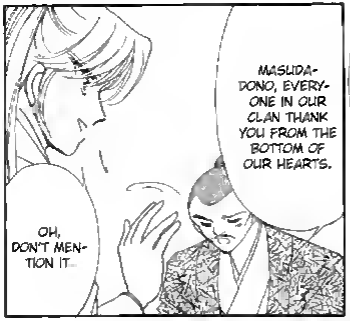
NABESHIMA MOTOSHIGE-DONO IS WOUNDED BY POISONOUS ARROWS! I'M MIYAMOTO MUSASHI FROM KOKURA HAN AND I'VE BROUGHT HIM HERE!
I'M BEGGING YOU TO OPEN THE DOOR!
MO MOTO-SHIGE-SAMA?!
IT'S MOTO-SHIGE-SAMA!
SFX: WASHES
FORTUNATELY, THE BLEEDING WAS STOPPED IN TIME, AND HIS WOUND WAS WASHED WITH WATER.
IF HE REGAINS CONSCIOUSNESS BY THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT, HE SHOULD BE ALRIGHT.

DONO...
DONO-OO...
WE'RE EXTREMELY SORRY.
WHY DO YOU THINK I LET YOU ELITES FOLLOW MOTOSHIGE?!
MOTO-SHIGE!
YOU, IDIOTS! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?!
MASTER OF SAGA HAN NABESHIMA KATSUSHIGE
THAT'S RUDE. HE'S KATSUSHIGE-SAMA
AH, ARE YOU HIS FATHER?
MOTO-SHIGE... WHAT... POOR CHILD...

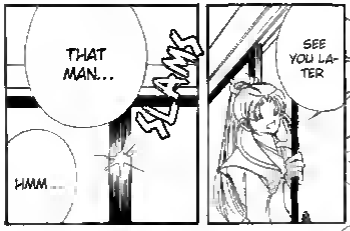
THEY'VE HELPED US CARRY DONO HERE
THIS IS MIYAMOTO MUSASHI-SAMA WHO HAPPENED TO BE THERE AND RENDERED HELP TO US
OH MY...
AND WHO ARE YOU PEOPLE?
PLEASE DON'T SAY THAT...
SO YOU'RE THE HIGHLY-REPUTED MIYAMOTO MUSASHI. I'M SORRY TO HAVE GOTTEN YOU INVOLVED
KATTLE!
KATTLE!
KATTLE!
FLINCHES
ME ..?
ACTUALLY, WE WERE ON OUR WAY TO SEE YOU

RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
Why is this man afraid of the sound of the wind?
I..I CAN'T STAY HERE TOO LONG—— SHALL WE TALK SOMEWHERE ELSE?
ALRIGHT
WHY DO YOU HAVE TO GO?
ESPECIALLY WHEN YOUR SON'S LIFE IS IN DANGER!
ka-chak
So, is that his father, the castellan——?
SHUT UP, NATSUKI!
BUT....I UNDERSTAND VERY WELL THAT
MOTOSHIGE-SAN'S A RESPECTABLE MAN WHO'S LOVED BY THE PEOPLE
BUT....

THAT'S WHY THEY'RE AFTER HIS LIFE——
OUR DONO'S ACADEMICALLY OUTSTANDING, KIND-HEARTED, AND HONEST——
OF COURSE!
THE PEOPLE HERE REALLY LOVE THEIR RULERS
PLEASE, PLEASE WAIT UP
HUH? WHAT'S THE MATTER?
YES...
JINBACHI, REFRAIN YOURSELF IN FRONT OF DONO
I'M MUTOU MATASHICHI, AND THIS MAN HERE IS EMORI JINBACHI
PLEASE, MAY I KNOW—— YOUR NAME?
AH... WELL, I SEE
PLEASE GUARD HERE FOR A WHILE
I'M GOING TO LOOK FOR MY FRIENDS


MASUDA-DONO, EVERYONE IN OUR CLAN THANK YOU FROM THE BOTTOM OF OUR HEARTS.
OH, DON'T MENTION IT

WELL— I'M MASUDA SHIROU...


THAT MAN...
HMM...
SLAMS
SEE YOU LATER

HMM DOESN'T IT SEEM MORE LIKE MIYAMOTO'S FOLLOWING HIM INSTEAD...?
I THOUGHT HE WAS MIYAMOTO MUSASHI-DONO'S RETAINER, BUT IT SEEMS THAT I WAS WRONG.

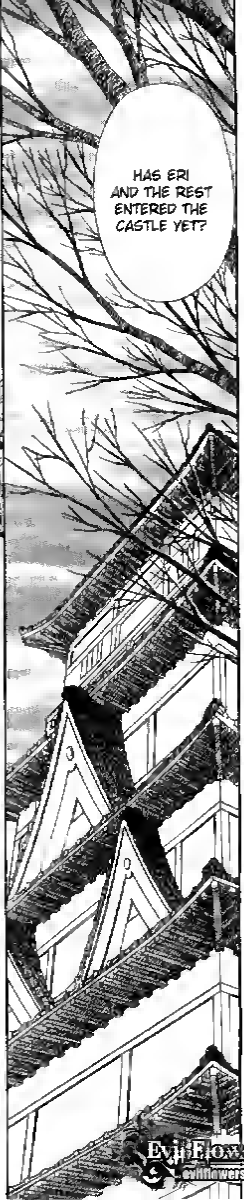
HE'S SOMEWHAT... A MYSTERIOUS MAN
NO MATTER WHAT, HE HAD SAVED US...

PLEASE KEEP THIS CONVERSATION A SECRET
MIYAMOTO-DONO, I HAVE A REQUEST
KATSUSHIGE-SAMA, YOU SEEM TO KNOW THE CULPRIT WHO ATTACKED MOTOSHIGE-DONO.
EVERYONE'S WORRIED
ARE ..ARE THE WORDS SPREADING?
I'M JUST GUESSING AND ANYONE IN THE CLAN WOULD BE HAVING THE SAME THOUGHTS TOO
AHH... PLEASE DON'T SAY ANYTHING FURTHER
MOTOSHIGE-DONO AND MITSUSHIGE ARE AT EACH OTHER'S THROATS——

FURTHER-MORE, MITSU-SHIGE'S STILL A CHILD——
YOU KNOW VERY WELL WHO COMES FROM A LINAGE OF HIGHER SOCIAL CLASS
YOU KNOW VERY WELL WHO COMES FROM A LINAGE OF HIGHER SOCIAL CLASS
DESPITE THAT, MOTOSHIGE'S WELL-LIKED BY ALMOST EVERY-ONE
Naoshige
Katsu-shige
Yoshi-masu
Motoshige
Tadanao
Mitsushige
MITSUSHIGE'S FATHER WHO PASSED AWAY WAS TADANAO HIS MOTHER'S SOME-ONE WHOM I MARRIED FROM THE TOKUGAWA FAMILY, WHEREAS MOTOSHIGE'S MOTHER IS ONLY A MAID FROM TOWN
THIS DISTURBANCE HAS SPREAD ENTIRELY ACROSS THE WHOLE CLAN.
BUT THE REST OF THE CHILDREN ARE SIDING WITH MITSUSHI-GE——
MOREOVER, MY FATHER, NAOSHIGE WHO'S PROUD OF HIS WARRIOR LINEAGE DOTES ON MOTOSHIGE.
AND IF THE OTHER CLANS WERE TO ATTACK US AND WE COULDN'T HANDLE THE AGGRESSION, WE COULD BE WIPED OUT——
RIGHT NOW, THE SITUATIONS IN AREAS AROUND SHIMABARA ARE UNSTABLE AND IF SOMETHING WERE TO HAPPEN WHEN MY CLAN'S IN A MESS——
AAH... SUCH TROUBLESOME THOUGHTS
This man's the only one who takes a neutral stand.
KATSU-SHIGE-DONO..

DO YOU KNOW OF—ANY ACTIVITIES IN AREAS AROUND SHIMABARA?
THERE'S A RATHER STRANGE RUMOR GOING AROUND IN THOSE PLACES
SOMETHING ABOUT THE APPEARANCE OF GOD'S MESSENGER
HUMPH, IF SUCH A MAN IS REALLY HERE, I'D LIKE TO ASK HIM FOR HELP
WHAT IF GOD'S MESSENGER—
IS REALLY HERE?
HUH?

AND UNINTENTIONALLY GOTTEN CLOSE WITH MOTOSHIGE...
SOMEHOW, I ALWAYS ALLOW MY HEART TO RULE OVER MY HEAD——
But I feel that I must not let him be killed
I'm sure he'll make a good castellan.
SFX: CLACK
HM?
DAMN IT!
HEY!
SFX: FLACK



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SFX: GRABS
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
TAKE THIS!
DIE!
SFX: CLACK
SFX: CLACK
WHAT'S WITH YOU? DO YOU KNOW THAT I'M NABESHIMA MITSUSHIGE? HOW DARE YOU SPEAK TO ME IN SUCH AN IMPUDENT WAY!
DON'T DO THAT! DON'T KILL THE LIVING ANIMALS JUST FOR FUN!
I'M PRACTICING MY SWORD, AND IT'S FUN TO SWING IT ON THE BIRD.

HMM, SO YOU'RE MITSUSHIGE? IF YOU'RE LIKE THIS, YOU WON'T MAKE A GOOD CASTELLAN
SHUT UP! IF YOU CONTINUE TO BE RUDE, I'LL BEAT YOU UP WITH MY FISTS!
YOU SURE ARE IMPERTINENT— WATCH THIS
YOU CAN STILL PRACTICE YOUR SWORD WITHOUT EVEN KILLING ANY LIVING THING
WHOOSH
CHIS
TRY THAT, YOU DEFINITELY CAN'T DO IT
SAYS WHO!
SFX. WHOOSH

SFX: WHIZ
THAT'S RIGHT, YOU GOT IT.
THE LEAF FLIES OFF WITH THE WIND WHEN I SWING MY SWORD
UH
SFX: WHIZ
LOOK CAREFULLY, YOU'LL UNDERSTAND WHERE THE WILTED LEAVES WILL GO.
AH, MITSUSHIGE-SAMA'S OVER THERE!
THERE'S A SUSPICIOUS FELLOW NEXT TO MITSUSHIGE-SAMA!
HM...
YOU...ARE YOU THE YOUNG MASTER'S MAN? DID YOU COME HERE TO TAKE REVENGE ON MITSUSHIGE-SAMA?
NO——NO, IT'S A MISUNDERSTANDING
SAGA CLAN'S ELDER NAGAKI YASUYORI

SFX. CLANK
SFX. CLANK
WAIT.
PROTECT MITSUSHIGE-SAMA!
SFX. THUD
I ALREADY SAID THAT IT'S A MISUNDER-STANDING!
WAH...
SFX. SWINGS
SFX. THUD

YASUYORI, YOU'VE MISTAKEN! THIS MAN HERE IS ONLY TEACHING ME HOW TO USE THE SWORD
YOU KNOW...
THIS... I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH REMARKABLE SKILL
MITSUSHIGE-SAMA
KEEP YOUR WEAPONS, IT'S ALRIGHT
MITSUSHIGE
I'VE TOLD YOU NOT TO COME TO THE GARDEN ALONE
MITSUSHIGE-SAMA, ARE YOU REALLY ALRIGHT?
THANK YOU, MITSUSHIGE. I'VE SAID THAT IT'S A MISUNDERSTANDING, BUT THESE PEOPLE REFUSE TO LISTEN TO ME
Uh, wah... What a murderous aura... This man

I'VE ALREADY SAID THAT IT'S A MISUNDERSTANDING, HAVEN'T I?!
AND THAT INCLUDES THIS FELLOW
MITSUSHIGE-SAMA, A WHILE BACK, MOTOSHIGE-DONO WAS WOUNDED BY A POISONOUS ARROW AND WAS SENT HERE. THE YOUNG MASTER'S MEN ARE STILL LOITERING AROUND,
IS THAT THE ONLY THING YOU PEOPLE CARE?!
THERE ARE MORE IMPORTANT THINGS THAN PEOPLE OF HIGH STATUS, AREN'T THERE?
HAVE YOU LOOKED AROUND YOU? YOUR FOLLOWERS AND PEOPLE ARE WORRIED!
THERE ARE LOTS OF PEOPLE WHO'RE DYING OF STARVATION EVEN AT THIS VERY MOMENT.
COMPARE WITH THOSE PEOPLE, YOU'RE FAR MORE FORTUNATE HERE

FATHER...
MY FATHER HAD SAID THE SAME THING AS THIS MAN.
MITSU-SHIGE-SAMA?
ARE YOU REFERRING TO TA-DANAO-SAMA?
YEAH..
HE SAID THAT, 'THE MOST IMPORTANT THING FOR A MAN, WHO STANDS ABOVE THE REST, IS NOT ONLY TO LOOK UP..
BUT TO SEE DOWN AND BEYOND.' HE ALSO MENTIONED THAT WE SHOULD NOT BELITTLE THOSE WHO ARE BELOW AND AROUND US
HEY— YASUYORI...
MY FATHER DID SAY THE SAME THING, DIDN'T HE?
...YES, HE DID.

AND..
YOU ARE A CLEVER BOY, MITSUSHIGE
REALLY?!
YOUR FATHER WAS A VERY SPLENDID MAN..
YES, HE WAS..
AH, RIGHT HERE, MIYAMOTO
WHERE ARE YOU? NATSUKI?

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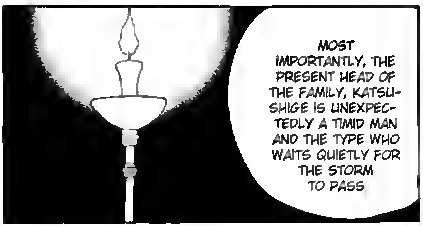
ANYWAY, THIS CLAN'S SPLIT INTO TWO NOW. ONE PART OF THEM'S ON MOTOSHIGE'S SIDE WHILE THE OTHER SIDED WITH MITSUSHIGE, AND BOTH PARTIES ARE SUSPICIOUS OF EACH OTHER

OOH— ERI, WE'VE FINALLY MET.
HOW'S MOTOSHIGE'S CONDITION?
IF HE REGAINS CONSCIOUSNESS HE'LL SURVIVE


MOST IMPORTANTLY, THE PRESENT HEAD OF THE FAMILY, KATSUSHIGE IS UNEXPECTEDLY A TIMID MAN AND THE TYPE WHO WAITS QUIETLY FOR THE STORM TO PASS

BUT EITHER PARTY SEEM NICE THOUGH.

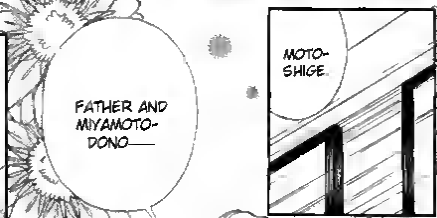
KATSUSHIGE EVEN SAID THAT IF GOD'S MESSENGER'S REALLY HERE, HE WOULD LIKE TO ASK HIM FOR HELP..
AH, THAT REMINDS ME. THE NAGESHIMA CLAN SWAM WITH THE STREAM AND DID WHAT THE OTHER CLANS DID DURING THE REBELLION. ACCORDING TO HISTORY.
WHAT AN INDECISIVE MAN—

HEY !! HOW ABOUT THIS...
THAT'S EASIER SAID THAN DONE HOW DO WE HELP HIM IN SUCH A SITUATION WHEN THE CLAN'S SPLIT INTO TWO?
ISN'T THIS QUITE LUCKY FOR US?
HEY, IF THAT'S THE CASE, HE MAY BELIEVE THAT GOD'S MESSENGER'S HERE IF WE HELP HIM
WHY DON'T WE HAVE THE DEAD TADANAO APPEAR HERE?

OOH, MIYAMOTO-DONO
KATSU-SHIGE-SAMA, THAT'S WON-DERFUL!

MOTOSHIGE-SAMA HAS RE-GAINED CON-SCIOUSNESS!

AH, YOU ..


FATHER AND MIYAMOTO-DONO——
MOTO-SHIGE

I REMEMBER THAT YOU WERE SHOUTING THAT YOU'D SAVE ME
AAH.. YES I WAS TOO CARRIED AWAY

I'M VERY GRATEFUL AND IF NOT FOR WHAT YOU HAD DONE, I'D PROBABLY BE DEAD.
UNCLE.
MITSU-SHIGE
MITSU-SHIGE?
YOU MUST NOT COME HERE.
AH, MASTER, SO YOU'RE HERE!
IT'S ALRIGHT, ISN'T IT? IT'S NATURAL TO PAY A VISIT TO A PATIENT.
YOU'RE MITSUSHIGE'S MASTER?
NO, IT'S NOT LIKE THAT. IT'S JUST WHAT I THINK IN MY HEART.
WHAT'S WITH THAT?
WELL, IT'S NOTHING.
HAHAHA

THIS IS... IT'S LIKE A SCENE IN MY DREAM...
MITSU-SHIGE
I WOULD NEVER HAVE IMAGINED THAT I'D BE AT SAGA CASTLE, HAVING A GOOD LAUGH WITH FATHER AND MITSUSHIGE...
THIS IS... COME TO THINK OF IT, IT'S RATHER UNIMAGINABLE
HEY! THAT'S ENOUGH!
LET'S HURRY BACK TO YOUR BEDROOM
YOU MUST NOT GO NEAR THE INJURED MAN
MITSU-SHIGE-SAMA, YOU'RE IN SUCH A PLACE AGAIN
THE MAN WHOM YOU RESPECT THE MOST, TADANAO-SAMA, RIGHT?
THE SADDEST ONE TO SEE THESE TWO AT WAR WITH EACH OTHER WOULD BE...
ISN'T IT WONDERFUL THAT MOTOSHIGE AND MITSUSHIGE ARE GETTING ALONG?
HMM...?
AH, YASUYORI

WHAT... WHAT IS THIS? I'VE NEVER HEARD ANY-THING LIKE IT...
IT'S DESCEN-DING FROM ABOVE.
WHAT'S MAKING THIS SOUND?
THAT'S ? A CRUCIFIX?
WHAT'S THAT?
A CRUCIFIX...?
IT'S THE MOBILE MELODY, 'HARELUYA'.
WHAT A BEAUTIFUL MUSIC
SFX: PO
UWAH! WHAT'S THIS? IT'S A HUGE MOTH——
SFX: SHOO
AH!

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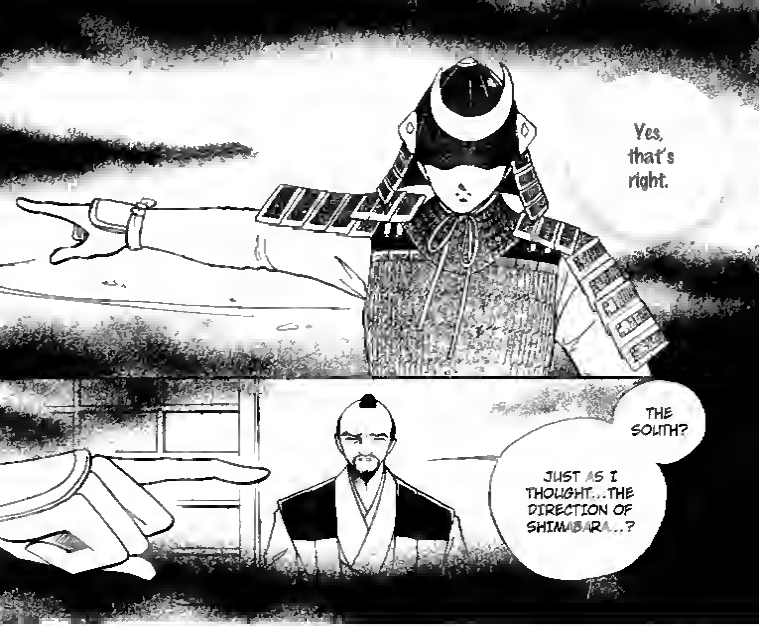
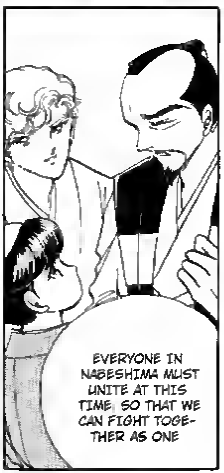
HATRED ONLY BEGETS HATRED.
LOVE YOUR ENEMIES.
TA... TADANAO... SAMA.
NO MORE FIGHTING AND NO MORE BLOOD-SHED FROM NOW ONWARDS.
This is bad...
The armor's the only thing that I can get my hands on.
FATHER? WHY ARE YOU WEARING YOUR ARMOR? ARE YOU FIGHTING A WAR SOME-WHERE?
THAT EIJI! THAT'S OUR SCHOOL PRIN-CIPAL'S PET PHRASE
SHH—!



SFX: DISAPPEARS



AH, FATHER!
ARE YOU GOING BACK?
MASTER.
Somehow... it seems like an unsatisfactory performance...
THE BATTERIES DIED SUDDENLY.
WHEEZ— I'M HAVING COLD SWEAT.
GOOD WORK.
THIS MUSIC AGAIN...

YOU CALLED FOR FATHER, DIDN'T YOU?
WHY... WHY DO YOU SAY THAT?
SINCE YOU CAME, SOMETHING HAS CHANGED HERE
He's right This place has changed
Everything.
started from this person.

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